



Department of Health

09/08/2016

FOI-1042664

Dear Mr Woodruff,

Thank you for your request of 18th July 2016 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

"Please provide a list of all organisations that DH Ministers have communicated with (via email, letter, phone, meetings or email) on the matter of TOBACCO in the last 3 years, whether initiated by DH or the organisation in question."

I can confirm that the Department may hold information relevant to your request. However, to comply with your request as it is currently framed would exceed the cost limit as set out in Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 12(1) states that a public authority can refuse a request if complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 (which represents 3.5 working days). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending this time in determining whether the information is held, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

To comply with the full scope of your request as it is currently worded would require searching the records of all ministerial private offices and the tobacco policy team over a period of three years, which would exceed the cost limits.

If you were to refine your request for information within more specific margins, for example, for information related to a narrower time frame then we may be able to continue processing your request. However, I cannot guarantee that Section 12 or any other exemptions will not apply to any information requested.

Help and information on wording an FOI request can be found on the Information Commissioner's website at www.ico.gov.uk/for_the_public/official_information.aspx.

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
Room 520
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Email: freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Anna Coundley

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk