



Cabinet Office

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James Mclean

By email: request-690390-11a0e431@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2020/12243
07/10/2020

Dear James Mclean

I refer to: your request where you asked:

“

- 1. Please can you confirm whether there is any specific government group co-ordinating the coronavirus response?*
- 2. Is the governments COBRA committee involved in dealing with the virus*
- 3. Has anyone been appointed to ensure that ministers, civil servants and unelected advisors do not send out mixed messages to the public.*
- 4. Has anyone or any body been set up to ensure that the governments policies do not clash or contradict each other? This would avoid daft things like opening pubs months before opening schools etc.*
- 5. Does the government have a published strategy similar to the strategy in Scotland.*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

There have been various Government structures that have been involved in coordinating the response to COVID-19.

COBR continues to meet as required to support the Government's response to COVID-19. COBR remains part of the Government's wider crisis management structure.

Four Ministerial Implementation Groups (MIGs) were created on 17 March. The MIGs were a set of ministerial committees which considered specific issues and ministers holding relevant policy responsibilities attended.

Information you have requested is exempt under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and the Cabinet Office is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

Information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-structures-to-coordinate-response-to-coronavirus>

The MIGs met regularly in the first phase of the Government's COVID-19 response effort but were always intended to operate as interim governance structures. New Cabinet Committee structures were established in June for the next phase. Information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-cabinet-committees-system-and-list-of-cabinet-committees>

The Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Eirian Walsh Atkins
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued. If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. King', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

*FOI Team
Cabinet Office*