



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

M Owens
request-767845-4ce67466@whatdotheyknow.com

28 June 2021

Dear M Owens,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1339955

Thank you for your request dated 23 June, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

I'd like to know, in the past 6 months:

- a. How many COVID-19 PCR tests have been done in England?*
- b. Has the NHS done these tests in-house, or is testing contracted to external companies?*
- b(i). In each case, could you provide the average cost per test? If an external company is used, could you provide information on the contract awarded to them?*

If you only have some or none of the information requested, could you let me know which NHS organisation may hold this information?

Yours faithfully,

M. Owens”

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

I have considered your request for information but I am unable to answer it without further clarification. Section 1(3) of the FOIA does not oblige us to answer requests where we require further clarification to identify and locate the information requested.

So that I provide you with the right information, please can you explain to what you are specifically referring in question b and b(i) of your request. Could you clarify as to whether it is manufacturing, conducting, processing, delivering of PCR tests to which you are referring? On receipt of this information I will continue to process your request.

Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a clarified request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter and sent to FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk, or to the address at the top of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Chow
Freedom of Information Officer
FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk