

Jason Burns  
Via: request-681234-13ed1377@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: IR2020/21154

8 January 2021

Dear Mr Jason Burns

Cabinet Office Internal Review Reference: **IR2020/21154**  
(Original Case Reference: **FOI2020/10364**)

## REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your email of **07/12/20**. You asked for an internal review of our response to your request for information of **01/09/20**. In your request you asked for information about **the reasoning behind the decision to require masks to be worn in shops but not in restaurants**.

I have carefully reviewed the handling of your request and I consider that the decision to treat your initial request as invalid was correct. As was highlighted in the response the Act gives a right of access to recorded information that already exists. The Freedom of Information Code of Practice explains that “requests for explanations, clarification of policy, comments on the public authority’s business, and any other correspondence that does not follow the definition of a valid request” in line with this definition I believe that the decision to treat your request as invalid was correct. I have therefore concluded that I should uphold the decision given in our letter.

In your request for an internal review you further asked for any statistics that the decision was based on, I believe that this can be considered as a valid request for recorded information. Following a search of our records I have established this information is not held by the Cabinet Office. You may wish to try contacting the Department of Health and Social Care at this link: <https://contactus.dhsc.gov.uk/>, who may be able to help you with your request for statistics.

Further information about the Face Coverings Regulations can be found [here](#).

### The Information Commissioner

This response ends the complaints process provided by the Cabinet Office. If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Rachel Anderson  
Head of Freedom of Information and Clearing House  
Cabinet Office