



# Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

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## By email

[request-717135-5ca74dc7@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-717135-5ca74dc7@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: 05/02/hf/2724

15 March 2021

Dear Ian Corless,

## **Re: Internal review of Case ref: No. 2407 – Evidence of the potential risks of wearing face coverings**

I refer to your email of 5 February 2021 which is being treated as a request for an internal review of the handling of case reference 2407 in relation to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 "the Act".

### ***Your Request case ref: 2407***

Public Health England (PHE) received your information request on the 10 January 2021. Under the Act PHE had until the 05 February 2021 to respond to your request.

### ***Response Case ref: 2407***

PHE sent you its response on the 05 February 2021 and, correctly confirmed it did not hold the information you requested. PHE also provided you with advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act by including the following link to its rapid evidence review on face coverings.

<https://phe.koha-ptfs.co.uk/cgi-bin/koha/opac-retrieve-file.pl?id=d86880bf65bd6b18eae21aa3bdaf2a4b>

### **Internal review decision**

PHE has now conducted the internal review and conclude that PHE sent you its response to your request for information within of the statutory deadline. PHE correctly confirmed it did not hold the information.

PHE acknowledges that your internal review request states you are seek information about mask wearing in general, not related to COVID-19. PHE can confirm that it does not hold this information as it has not looked into this area specifically.

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by calling the ICO's helpline on 0303 123 1113, visiting the ICO's website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or writing to the ICO at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,  
FOI Manager