



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

Mr John Fried

By email to: request-1052837-d36afc31@whatdotheyknow.com

18 December 2023

Dear Mr Fried,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1483592

Thank you for your request dated 28 November to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

DHSC holds the information you have requested. However, this information is being withheld under section 35(1)(a) of the FOIA (the formulation or development of government policy). The report containing the recommendations of the Government Champion for Personalised Prevention is under consideration by the Government, and releasing it at this time would impede the policy process by revealing live policy considerations of the Government.

We are required to assess as objectively as possible whether the balance of the public interest favours disclosing or withholding information under section 35 of the FOIA.

DHSC recognises a general public interest in promoting openness and transparency in government. However, the purpose of the exemption at section 35 is to protect the internal deliberative process as it relates to policy making. In other words, the exemption is intended to ensure that the possibility of public exposure does not deter ministers, officials and subject experts from full, candid and proper deliberation of policy formulation and development, including the exploration of all options, the keeping of detailed records and the taking of difficult decisions. Premature disclosure of information protected under section 35 could prejudice good working relationships, the perception of civil servants' neutrality and, ultimately, the quality of government, and we have therefore determined that the balance of public interest favours withholding this information.

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 sent to freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within two months of the date 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.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Annex

-----Original Message-----

From: John Fried <request-1052837-d36afc31@whatdotheyknow.com>

Sent: 28 November 2023 09:57

To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>

Subject: Freedom of Information request - Deanfield report

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.


With reference to the Government Champion for Personalised Prevention's taskforce on cardiovascular disease, announced by the Department on 7 March 2023

(<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fnews%2Fgovernment-to-consider-radical-new-approach-to-prevent-life-threatening-cardiovascular-disease&data=05%7C01%7Cdhmail%40dhsc.gov.uk%7C003721a600d247bf389908dbf003b43b%7C61278c3091a84c318c1fef4de8973a1c%7C1%7C0%7C638367670915314067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Wh%2BgHY9PYMNEGANAO0zmayTPL%2Bao0gPwZVldXQVj5Y0%3D&reserved=0>)

- 1) Please provide a copy of the "report"
- 2) Please provide a copy of the "evidence-based recommendations"

If the Department considers that a Section 22 exemption under the Act applies, please indicate the the date or required circumstances for publication of the above documents.

I look forward to your answer within the timelines outlined in the Act.

Yours faithfully, 
John Fried