



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
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Mr Mark Oakford
[request-708513-
beff8fcf@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-708513-beff8fcf@whatdotheyknow.com)

27 January 2021

Dear Mr Oakford,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI 1285419

Thank you for your request dated 26 December 2020 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

Subject: Re: Freedom of Information request - Details of emails detailing the downgrading of Covid 19 from HCID to NOID

Many thanks for your prompt and honest response. To clarify, I would suggest that the emails from the ACDP to the DHSC regarding the classification on the 13th of March would be the correct place to start.

This was a follow up to your request of 24 November 2020, to which we responded on 22 December (our ref: FOI-1276010).

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

DHSC holds relevant information, and this is provided herewith. Please find attached a copy of a letter from the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP), dated 13 March 2020, to Professor Jonathan Van Tam, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, setting out its decision to reclassify the status of Covid-19.

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,

Dorothy Crowe

Freedom of Information Officer

E: freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk