



UK Health Security Agency

By email

request-979774-cf517239@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: 01/11/23/JS/529

27 November 2023

Dear J Andrews,

Re: Discussions relating to location

Thank you for your request received on 31 October 2023 addressed to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that UKHSA does hold some of the information you have specified.

Request / Response

Please can you provide the current cost estimate for the proposed relocation to Harlow, as well as the worst case cost scenario estimate.

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that UKHSA does hold the information you have specified.

However, this information has been withheld under Section 43(2) of the Act, which exempts from the general duty to release information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any entity, including the public authority holding the information. Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and, as such, we are required to assess the public interest in withholding this information against that of its release.

We recognise the general public interest in releasing information about contracts between UKHSA and commercial partners. However, we also take into account the fact that this information is commercially sensitive, and we consider that releasing this information would not be in the public interest, as disclosure could discourage future commercial partner relationships with the UKHSA and our ability to secure best value for money. In other words, releasing the exempt information would undermine UKHSA's ability to ensure a fair and secure competition on price and overall value paid for goods and services in the future.

Therefore, we consider that releasing this information would not be in the public interest.

Please also provide costs for other ALBs to also co-locate where this is part of the overall cost calculations.

UKHSA does not hold information relevant to this part of your request as we have not included the movement of any other ALBs in our cost calculations.

Please also provide a list of alternative sites to Harlow that have had a detailed workup.

UKHSA does hold information relevant to this part of your request. During our planning, we have considered existing UKHSA sites at Porton in Wiltshire, Colindale in north London and Harwell near Oxford as alternatives to Harlow. That work looked at the possibility of each site operating on their own or in partnership with others.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to the Information Rights Team in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us by emailing InformationRights@UKHSA.gov.uk

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

Yours sincerely,
Information Rights Team