



UK Health Security Agency

By email

request-979774-cf517239@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: 29/11/23/JS/594

21 December 2023

Dear J Andrews,

Re: Internal review of Case ref: 01/11/23/JS/529

I refer to your email of 29 November 2023, which is being treated as a request for an internal review of case reference 01/11/23/JS/529, in relation to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Your Request Case ref: 01/11/23/JS/529

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) received your information request on 1 November 2023.

Under the Act, a public body such as UKHSA is required to 'respond to requests promptly' and no later than '20 working days ... after the request is received within the organisation'.

Response Case ref: 01/11/23/JS/529

UKHSA sent you its response on 27 November 2023 and correctly confirmed it did hold some of the information you specified and applied exemption *Section 43(2) Commercial Interests* of the Act to part of your request. UKHSA carried out a public interest test by setting out the factors it considered for and against disclosing the information you specified.

Internal review decision

UKHSA has now conducted the internal review and concludes that UKHSA sent you its response to your request for information within the statutory deadline.

UKHSA correctly confirmed it did hold some of the information you specified and correctly applied *Section 43(2) Commercial Interests* to part of your request.

However, in our response of 27 November 2023, UKHSA should have also explained that the Department of Health and Social Care Government Major Projects Portfolio data, published on 20 July 2023, indicates the forecast whole life costs for the PHE Science Hub programme remained at £2.6bn. This data is published annually and costs will be re-baselined following approval of the Programme Business Case. A date for that approval has not been set.

Under *Section 21 Information accessible to the applicant by other means* of the Act, the data is available in Row 9 at the link below:

[DHSC Government Major Projects Portfolio data, 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dhsc-government-major-projects-portfolio-data-2023)

UKHSA would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused as a result of this omission in our response of 27 November 2023.

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