



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

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

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ICO ref: IC-320785-N2T4

David Osborn

By email to: request-1088414-88303c2c@whatdotheyknow.com

29 October 2024

Dear Mr Osborn,

I write with reference to the Freedom of Information request you made on 17 February, asking for minutes or notes of meetings of the PPE Decision-Making Committee.

There have been several errors in the way that the Department handled your request, for which I apologise.

The Department does hold information relevant to your request.

Meetings of the Committee were held on the 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 22, 27, 29 and 31 July 2020. Additionally, meetings were scheduled to take place on the 8 and 20 July but were cancelled.

The documents relevant to your request will be sent to you in zipped folders. Due to the number of files it may be necessary to send more than one email. If this is the case the emails will be clearly labelled to avoid confusion.

Redactions have been applied to some of the attachments. The names of junior officials have been withheld under section 40(2) of the FOIA, which provides for the protection of personal information. Section 40 prohibits a public body from disclosing personally identifiable information, as doing so would contravene data protection principles.

It may be helpful if I explain that during the time covered by your request there were several newly established committees working on various aspects of the Government's response to the Covid pandemic. As the pandemic, and the official response to it, evolved, some of these committees were merged or renamed, and their members and responsibilities also changed. Because of this the initial searches for the documents linked to your request were unsuccessful at the initial searches carried out at both the initial FOI stage and the Internal Review stage. Officials in the Department's FOI team are working with officials in the Departmental records office to prevent re-occurrence of this.

A copy of this letter and the relevant documents will be shared with the ICO. Please contact me if there are any questions.

Alan Addison

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freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk