



Mr Christian Hacking

By email: [request-843451-90f5r6b44@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-843451-90f5r6b44@whatdotheyknow.com)

17 March 2022

Dear Mr Hacking,

**Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1397893, FOI-1397894, FOI-1397895, FOI-1397896, FOI-1397897, FOI-1397898, FOI-1397900, FOI-1397901 and FOI-1397902**

Thank you for your requests dated 11 March, which I have attached in Annex A.

Your requests have been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

To provide the information as the requests are currently framed would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in the FOIA.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA provides that public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. Paragraph 1, Schedule 1, Part 1 of the FOIA and regulation 3 of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) set the appropriate limit for the DHSC at £600.

Where two or more requests for the same or similar information are made to a public authority within a period of sixty working days, regulation 5(1) and (2) of the Regulations allows that public authority to aggregate those requests.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) advises that when a public authority is estimating whether the appropriate cost limit is likely to be exceeded, it can include the costs of complying with two or more requests if the conditions laid out in regulation 11 of the Regulations can be satisfied.

Those conditions require the requests to be:

- made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- made for the same or similar information; and
- received by the public authority within any period of 60 consecutive working days.

Regulation 5(2) of the Regulations requires that the requests which are to be aggregated relate "to any extent" to the same or similar information. This can be applied where there is an overarching theme or common thread running between the requests in terms of the nature of the information that has been requested.

DHSC believes that all nine of your requests were a repeat of your previous request, broken down into nine new requests. The Department therefore asserts that all the criteria set out by the Regulations have been met.

Although we cannot answer your requests at the moment, we may, however, be able to answer a refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider, for example selecting one topic, one or two organisations and a shorter time frame.

Please note that the Department is not obliged to respond to further requests on this topic sent in within the next 60 working days.

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](mailto: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,

Jane Spencer  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk)

## **Annex A**

### **FOI-1397893**

RE:Email Correspondence between DHSC and Abortion Providers and Royal Colleges between 8-15th Jan

Following on from FOI request -1393812

Please can I request all correspondences between the DHSC and abortion providers on the 8-15th Jan. These should include:

-Abortion Providers (BPAS, British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes UK, Marie Stopes, NUPAS, National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service) -Royal Colleges (Eg. The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Midwives) -Any other relevant organisation

You may redact names and other personal data of lower-ranking civil servants only. If possible please do not redact names of any heads of staff in either institution.

### **FOI-1397894**

RE:Email Correspondence between DHSC and Abortion Providers and Royal Colleges on the 12th Feb 2022

Following on from FOI request -1393812

Please can I request all correspondences between the DHSC and abortion providers on the 7th Feb 2022. These should include:

-Abortion Providers (BPAS, British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes UK, Marie Stopes, NUPAS, National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service) -Royal Colleges (Eg. The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Midwives) -Any other relevant organisation

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### **FOI-1397895**

RE:Email Correspondence between DHSC and Abortion Providers and Royal Colleges on the 9th Feb 2022

Following on from FOI request -1393812

Please can I request all correspondences between the DHSC and abortion providers on the 7th Feb 2022. These should include:

-Abortion Providers (BPAS, British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes UK, Marie Stopes, NUPAS, National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service) -Royal Colleges (Eg.

The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Midwives) -Any other relevant organisation

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**FOI-1397896**

RE:Email Correspondence between DHSC and Abortion Providers and Royal Colleges on the 11th Feb 2022

Following on from FOI request -1393812

Please can I request all correspondences between the DHSC and abortion providers on the 7th Feb 2022. These should include:

-Abortion Providers (BPAS, British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes UK, Marie Stopes, NUPAS, National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service) -Royal Colleges (Eg. The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Midwives) -Any other relevant organisation

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**FOI-1397897**

RE:Email Correspondence between DHSC and Abortion Providers and Royal Colleges on the 14th Feb 2022

Following on from FOI request -1393812

Please can I request all correspondences between the DHSC and abortion providers on the 7th Feb 2022. These should include:

-Abortion Providers (BPAS, British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes UK, Marie Stopes, NUPAS, National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service) -Royal Colleges (Eg. The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Midwives) -Any other relevant organisation

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**FOI-1397898**

RE:Email Correspondence between DHSC and Abortion Providers and Royal Colleges on the 14th Feb 2022

Following on from FOI request -1393812

Please can I request all correspondences between the DHSC and abortion providers on the 7th Feb 2022. These should include:

-Abortion Providers (BPAS, British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes UK, Marie Stopes, NUPAS, National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service) -Royal Colleges (Eg. The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Midwives) -Any other relevant organisation

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**FOI-1397900**

RE:Email Correspondence between DHSC and Abortion Providers and Royal Colleges on the 13th Feb 2022

Following on from FOI request -1393812

Please can I request all correspondences between the DHSC and abortion providers on the 7th Feb 2022. These should include:

-Abortion Providers (BPAS, British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes UK, Marie Stopes, NUPAS, National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service) -Royal Colleges (Eg. The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Midwives) -Any other relevant organisation

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**FOI-1397901**

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

RE:Email Correspondence between DHSC and Abortion Providers and Royal Colleges on the 10th Feb 2022

Following on from FOI request -1393812

Please can I request all correspondences between the DHSC and abortion providers on the 7th Feb 2022. These should include:

-Abortion Providers (BPAS, British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes UK, Marie Stopes, NUPAS, National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service) -Royal Colleges (Eg. The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Midwives) -Any other relevant organisation

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**FOI-1397902**

RE:Email Correspondence between DHSC and Abortion Providers and Royal Colleges on the 7th Feb 2022

Following on from FOI request -1393812

Please can I request all correspondences between the DHSC and abortion providers on the 7th Feb 2022. These should include:

-Abortion Providers (BPAS, British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes UK, Marie Stopes, NUPAS, National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service) -Royal Colleges (Eg. The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Royal College of Midwives) -Any other relevant organisation

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