



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

Mr Michael Bimmler
request-758079-bbe582d5@whatdotheyknow.com

21 July 2021

Dear Mr Bimmler,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1332359

Thank you for your request dated 24 May, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

"Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Eurofins Forensic Services Limited, trading as "Eurofins COVID Testing Services" or "Eurofins" has been accredited by the DHSC since on or about 13 May 2021 as a provider of so-called Day 2 and Day 8 COVID-19 tests for persons arriving in England from abroad.

Shortly after its accreditation, Eurofins started to experience severe delivery disruption issues.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, please could you disclose:

- any correspondence between DHSC and Eurofins on the topic of Eurofins' delivery of Day 2 and 8 tests (date range: 13 May 2021 to date)*
- any DHSC internal briefings, notes, summaries, memos or similar records on the topic of Eurofins' delivery of Day 2 and 8 tests (date range: 13 May 2021 to date).*

I consent to any redactions of names of Eurofins employees and junior DHSC officials, as well as non-public contact details, where deemed necessary, though would ask that (where possible) job titles are retained to facilitate understanding of correspondence.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Bimmler"

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

I can confirm that the Department holds information relevant to your request.

However, we consider that this information is exempt under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 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 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 a general public interest in the performance of private sector providers of testing for international travel.

However, we also take into account the fact that this information is commercially sensitive and, as partial information, could be to the detriment of the private provider of travel testing your request focuses on. Therefore, we consider that releasing this information would not be in the public interest.

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,

Charlotte Chow
Freedom of Information Officer
FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk