



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 Ken Frost
[request-692093-
7a2f9539@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-692093-7a2f9539@whatdotheyknow.com)

17 November 2020

Annex A: DHSC's response to initial request dated 3 November 2020
Annex B: Request for internal review dated 3 November 2020

Dear Mr Frost,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA): INTERNAL REVIEW CASE REFERENCE IR 1256671

You originally wrote to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on 18 September requesting COVID-19 testing false positive percentage rates. We responded to you on 3 November (our ref: FOI-1256671), confirming the Department does not hold that information. A copy of our response, including the full text of your request, is at Annex A.

You subsequently emailed DHSC on 3 November requesting an internal review into the handling of your original request. A copy of your email is at Annex B.

The purpose of an internal review is to assess how your FOI request was handled in the first instance and to determine whether the decision given to you was correct. This is an independent review as I was not involved in the original decision.

I have undertaken discussions with the team that has responsibility for your request, and we have taken the opportunity to consider it again.

Conclusion

I have concluded that the response you received was compliant with the requirements of the FOIA and I uphold DHSC's statement that we do not hold the information requested.

The review is now complete.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. 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,

Charlene Carter
Casework Manager
Freedom of Information Team
FreedomofInformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Annex A: DHSC's response to initial request

Mr Ken Frost
request-692093- 7a2f9539@whatdotheyknow.com

03/11/2020

Dear Mr Frost,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1256671

Thank you for your request dated 18 September 2020 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“Please can you advise what the percentage of false positive rate is wrt the current Covid tests?”

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

DHSC does not hold the information you requested. We do not hold percentage figures for the false positive rate regarding current COVID-19 tests.

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/>

Annex B: Request for internal review

ken frost request-692093-7a2f9539@whatdotheyknow.com
03 November 2020

Internal review of Freedom of Information request - False Positive Percentage

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Department of Health and Social Care's handling of my FOI request 'False Positive Percentage'.

I asked what the false positive rate was, when you finally answered you stated that you do not hold that information:

- 1 Why do you not hold that information?
- 2 Who does?

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/false_positive_percentage

Thank you
Yours faithfully,
ken frost