



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

Ms Rhiannon Osborne

By email to: request-901410-7419811c@whatdotheyknow.com

18 November 2022

Dear Ms Osborne,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1419366

Thank you for your request dated 24 September to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex A.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and I apologise for the delayed response.

DHSC does not hold information relevant to your request.

Outside of the FOIA, and on a discretionary basis, you may find the following information helpful, as it details the contracts for the Human Challenge Programme. This has been broken down by supplier, value and scope, as well as providing links to each contract.

Supplier	Contract Value	Contract Scope	Link to Contract
hVIVO	£16,331,538	1. Virus manufacture and supply; 2. Conduct of a COVID-19 human challenge characterisation study; and 3. Optional services requiring reservation of three study slots for HMG to assess efficacy of potential COVID-19 vaccine candidates in human challenge studies.	Provision of Human Challenge Studies - Contracts Finder
Imperial College, London	£1,812,899	Sponsorship of a COVID-19 human challenge characterisation study.	Sponsorship of the Human Challenge Characterisation Study - Contracts Finder
Royal Free Hospital	£3,660,117	Provision of medical facilities for a COVID-19 human challenge characterisation study.	Provision of Facilities for Human Challenge Characterisation Study - Contracts Finder

Additionally, and again outside of the FOIA and on a discretionary basis, the Vaccine Taskforce (VTF) was first established by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in May 2020. From 1 August 2021, VTF became a joint unit of BEIS and DHSC.

The VTF had undertaken to study sponsor indemnity for the Human Challenge project, which was announced on 20 October 2020. Please see [BEIS Annual report and accounts 2020-21 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) – in particular, page 118 annual report and accounts.

On 1 October 2022, the VTF transitioned to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and upon transition, the VTF was renamed the Covid Vaccines Unit (CVU).

You may therefore wish to contact UKHSA directly, as the CVU may hold information relevant to your request.

You can contact the FOI team at UKHSA at InformationRights@UKHSA.gov.uk.

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 sent to freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within two months of the date 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.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Annex

From: Rhiannon Osborne <request-901410-7419811c@whatdotheyknow.com>
Sent: 24 September 2022 00:04
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Funding for the Human Challenge Programme

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Please provide a spreadsheet detailing the funding given out by DHSC from January 2020 to July 2022 for the Human Challenge Programme. Please provide the funding broken down by individual grant, grant amount, grant purpose and grantee.

Yours faithfully,

Rhiannon Osborne.