



## Department of Health

Freedom of Information Team  
Department of Health  
G18, Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
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[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Ms Tracey Simpson-Laing  
email address: [request-428233-  
2e7874ef@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-428233-2e7874ef@whatdotheyknow.com)

29 September 2017

Dear Ms Simpson-Laing

**Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI 1096579**

Thank you for your request dated 1 September 2017 in which you asked the Department of Health (DH):

*"Freedom of Information request - Government study on the effects of brexit on the NHS*

*I understand from numerous articles in the UK national media that a number of studies (50 in total) have been undertaken in to the effects of Brexit on a number of UK institutions including the NHS. It is then clear that the Secretary of State for Health and senior civil servants in your department have possession of these documents.*

*As these documents have been paid for with 'tax payers' money it is then my right as a tax payer to view the said documents that I have paid for and so that I can understand the consequences of the contents on my future health and use of the NHS.*

*Whilst I understand that you may wish to refuse this request for a number of reasons I would note that providing me with the said document(s) either through posting on this FOI portal or through publication on your own website will mean that you will not be able to cite 'FOIA Section 12 Exemption' as it will neither exceed the time or the cost.*

*I would also note that the information is not confidential, it is a matter of public record and concern and in law my rights under the Convention of Human Rights to know how my health may be effected by the state.*

*To conclude, I am requesting the following - all documents between 1st May 2015 and the 31st August 2017 with regards to effects of Brexit on the NHS services in the UK."*

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

I have considered your request for information, but I am unable to answer it without further clarification. Section 1(3) of the FOIA does not oblige us to answer requests where we require further clarification to identify and locate the information requested.

So that I can provide you with the right information, please can you clarify which documents you are referring to, because it is not clear to us what these 50 studies are, nor is it clear to us who/which Department they were commissioned by? If you are able to give us more specific details of these studies and documents, then we may be able to continue to process your request. However, please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a clarified request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

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 receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) who may decide to investigate your concerns. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response, and received our internal review response. The ICO will not usually investigate concerns where there has been an undue delay in bringing it to their attention. You should raise your concerns with them 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,

Dorothy Crowe

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