



Department  
of Health

Freedom of Information Team  
Department of Health  
39 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0EU

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Ms Beverly Gilhooley

[request-450137-45710318@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-450137-45710318@whatdotheyknow.com)

3 January 2018

Dear Ms Gilhooley

**Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1109483**

Thank you for your email of 3 December 2017 requesting information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act regarding the number of hospitalisations due to influenza.

Your exact request was:

*"Dear Department of Health,  
In order to find out if hospitalisation due to Influenza decreased or increased since the mass vaccination programme for Influenza in 2013; I would like to see the percentages or numbers of hospitalisation due to Influenza from 2003 to 2017, across England and Scotland."*

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

The Department does not hold this information. This is because we are not the appropriate authority to contact on this subject. However, Public Health England (PHE) collect data on the number of influenza confirmed hospitalisations in England. You may wish to contact PHE which may hold some information relevant to your request. Details on how to do so can be found on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

However, outside of the scope of the FOI Act, and on a discretionary basis, you may be interested to know that PHE publish a weekly influenza report which includes information which will assist with your request. The weekly influenza report is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/weekly-national-flu-reports>

For information which relates to Scotland you may wish to contact Health Protection Scotland. Details on how to do so can be found on the following website:

<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/about/information.aspx>

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,

Edward Franklyn

Freedom of Information Officer  
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