



Department of Health

11/08/2015

DE00000948573

Dear Katie,

Thank you for your request of 20th July 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

"Having already accessed the monthly published payments on your website, please can you provide me with further information of an itemised list of projects/contracts on health consultancy services/projects over £500 between financial years:

April 2014-March 2015

April 2013-March 2014

April 2012-March 2013

For each of these financial years, please also give a brief indication of what the payments were for (contract name).

For each of these contracts, please state the supplier name.

I refer to the term 'consultancy' with regards to 'consultancy on the health sector' in areas including but not limited to:

- evaluating health care policy including their impact on health care delivery and spending*
- evaluating clinical practice including their impact on health care delivery and spending*
- projects aimed to improve the efficiency and sustainability of health care systems*
- health economics and outcomes research*
- measurement and understanding of patient reported outcomes*
- health technology assessments (appraising medical technology for NICE approval)*
- statistics in health and healthcare*

Please supply this in a excel/cvs format, thank you."

Under section 1(3) of the Freedom of Information Act, from our preliminary assessment we are unable to answer your request as it is currently worded. This is because we require further clarification from you in order to process your request. Guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office states that:

“If the public authority is unable to identify and locate the information being requested, it will need to ask the requester for clarification. This could arise where the request:

- can be read in more than one way;
- does not have an obvious interpretation;
- is so general and open-ended that it is impossible to determine what information falls within its scope; or
- is rendered unclear by the context.

The authority should always ask for clarification in any of these circumstances to ensure that it can comply with the request properly.”

Therefore, we need clarification of the following point:

- You mention ‘monthly published payments on our website’. It would be helpful to know which publication, report or web page you are referring to.

Help and information on wording an FOI request can be found on the Information Commissioner’s website at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>

Once you have clarified this we can then proceed with a response. However, please note that I cannot guarantee that any exemptions under the FOI Act will not apply to any information requested.

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
Room 520
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Email: freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Anna Coundley

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk