



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
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Mr Paul Burnett
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15 May 2018

Dear Mr Burnett

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI 1128468

Thank you for your request to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) dated 15 April 2018, the full text of which is attached hereto. The exact wording of the questions you submitted as requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is as follows:

“(1) Would you therefore please personally send as a matter of urgency a reply to the FOI question asked: ‘which of the 3,000 most commonly used treatments identified as ineffective in 2009 are still in use’?”

(2) (i) What is the evidence that permits you to accept the SPS’s declaration of clinical research to be ‘the wrong type’ in assessing clinical or cost effectiveness, and what is your evidence that permits you to claim that meta-analyses alone can do so, in contradiction of Dr Sackett’s dictum?

ii) Do you plan to cease nearly all surgery and dentistry on the NHS? We hope not, but your own terms of reference would seem to compel you to do so, there being almost no RCTs or meta analyses in either. How do you explain this contradiction?

(3) As a Freedom of Information request, please supply details of all meta analyses, or RCTs at the least, of treatments that have been scientifically proven to be effective in counteracting antimicrobial resistance.”

We have handled your requests (1), (2)(i) and (3) under the FOIA, and our responses are as follows:

(1) Would you therefore please personally send as a matter of urgency a reply to the FOI question asked: ‘which of the 3,000 most commonly used treatments identified as ineffective in 2009 are still in use’?

DHSC holds no information relevant to your request.

Question (2)(i)

DHSC holds no information relevant to your request. You may wish to contact NHS England, which commissioned the report.

Question 3

DHSC holds no information relevant to your request.

We have not handled Question (2)(ii) under the FOIA. It may help if I explain that the FOIA provides a right of access to recorded information held by public authorities. Recorded information can typically include physical and electronic information such as emails, letters, documents, reports, policies, datasets, photographs and sound or video recordings. However, it does not require public authorities to generate new information to answer questions, including providing explanations or giving opinions, unless this is recorded information that they already hold.

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

Freedom of Information Officer

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