



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

Mr Sean Cavens
[request-584655-6dfeba4a@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

22 July 2019

Dear Mr Cavens

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1180748

Thank you for your request dated 23 June 2019 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

Under FOI I request the following:

during Jeremy Hunt MP time as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, 4 September 2012 – 9 July 2018, please supply me with the written evidence of Jeremy Hunt pushing for either;

1) Financial settlement /or compensation

2) Financial support

3) An Infected Blood Inquiry

Which he claimed on Friday 21st June 2019 he has done.

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

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. However, to comply with your request as it is currently framed would exceed the cost limit as set out in Section 12(1) of the FOIA.

Section 12(1) states that a public authority can refuse a request if complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £600, which represents 3.5 working days. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending this time in determining whether the information is held, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The timeframe of your request spans several years and involves searches in several filing collections. Searching these files is carried out using keywords, and as your questions do not relate to specific named policy documents or reports, for example, locating the relevant information is more difficult, and a large volume of documentation would need to be assessed to determine if it contains relevant information, which we consider would substantially exceed the section 12 cost limit.

If you were to refine your request by narrowing the timeframe, then we may be able to continue processing it (we suggest that you may wish to focus on the years 2015 onwards). It would also be

helpful if you narrowed your search to the files held by the Infected Blood policy team. However, I cannot guarantee that Section 12 or any other exemptions will not apply to a reframed request.

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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