



# Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
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[www.gov.uk/dhsc](http://www.gov.uk/dhsc)

Ms Tamsin Pankhurst

[request-624314-  
4dd50d14@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-624314-4dd50d14@whatdotheyknow.com)

17 December 2019

Dear Ms Pankhurst

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1197519**

Thank you for your request dated 29 November 2019 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

***I am writing to request information about the pharmaceutical company Porton-Biopharma.***

***I have looked at the information on Companies House and understand that this company is owned by The Secretary of State for Health.***

***I am trying to establish whether this company is owned by that government department or whether it is owned by the individual Matt Hancock (who holds that government position)?***

***Can you please forward me information regarding who actually owns and directly profits from this company and the shares they hold?***

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

DHSC holds this information.

Porton Biopharma Ltd is a limited liability company, wholly owned by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on behalf of Public Health England (PHE). All assets held by DHSC are in the name of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, which is a legal position, and not by the individuals who may occupy the position of Secretary of State from time to time. All assets owned by PHE are also in the name of DHSC.

Any dividends declared are paid to Public Health England. This is set out in the company accounts which can be found at Companies House.

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 this letter and sent to [FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk), or to the address at the top of this letter.

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

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO 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

E: [freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)