



# 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](http://www.gov.uk/dhsc)

Chandra Singh

By email to: [request-863991-db47fb2a@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-863991-db47fb2a@whatdotheyknow.com)

30/06/2022

Dear Chandra,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1406441**

Thank you for your request dated 24 May to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. However, as the information held is in the public domain, we will, under section 21 of the FOIA (information accessible to the applicant by other means), refer you to the published source.

The European Commission has outlined a common approach for uniform and interoperable proofs of vaccination as part of the EU Digital COVID Certificate, which can be found within the documentation on their website at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0953>.

For ease of access, the contents are as follows:

The 1D barcode on an NHS COVID Pass letter contains a Unique Vaccination Certificate/Assertion Identifier (UVCI). Each vaccination certificate contains an identifier under the UVCI property that uniquely identifies it against all other issued vaccination certificates.

This UVCI contains the UVCI schema version, the country where the certificate was generated (i.e., the entity that has issued the certificate), a unique string and a checksum.

The 2D barcode securely contains encoded data relating to a vaccination event. This data is as follows:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Disease Targeted
- COVID-19 vaccine or prophylaxis
- COVID-19 vaccine product
- COVID-19 vaccine marketing authorisation holder or manufacturer
- Number in a series of doses
- The overall number of doses in the series
- Date of vaccination
- Country in which the vaccine was administered

- Certificate Issuer
- Unique Certificate Identifier
- Schema Version

This is deemed to be the minimum data set for international travel verification.

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 sent to [freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk) or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within two months of the date 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.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team  
[freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

*From: Chandra Singh <request-863991-db47fb2a@whatdotheyknow.com>  
Sent: 24 May 2022 03:51  
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>  
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Information Held Within Covid Pass Letter*

*Dear Department of Health and Social Care,*

*When a paper copy of a covid pass letter is requested from following website:*

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nhs.uk%2Fconditions%2Fcoronavirus-covid-19%2Fnhs-covid-pass%2Fget-an-nhs-covid-pass%2Fget-your-nhs-covid-pass-letter%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdhtml%40dhsc.gov.uk%7Cd542d14b3261478ae5a608da3d8da89f%7C61278c3091a84c318c1fef4de8973a1c%7C1%7C0%7C637889975861421384%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hlUR1bn9hwwKP KpsNn3Y9sLo8AMSysRA0Vzk9UmUBwE%3D&reserved=0>

*The covid pass letter displays a bar code and three QR Codes. Please provide details of the information contained within the bar code and each of the three QR Codes.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Chandra Singh*