



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

Ms Taryn Taylor
[request-645932-
dcd608f@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

13 March 2020

Dear Ms Taylor,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1204903

Thank you for your request dated 13 February 2020 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

***Subject: Freedom of Information request - Interests or payments, from
Pharmaceutical/Chemical (worldwide companies) to FSA/D.of HSC/NHS? re:-CBD OIL***

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Under the FOI , act can you please provide the following:

***FOI to cover the years 2016/2017/2018/2019 2020. To include any of the following:- the
department FSA , department for Health Social care, NHS, any government employees or
their relatives the government as a whole.***

***Regarding the study / licensing, or the sale of CBD OIL (whether with or without the THC
content):- has or does, any government employee/their relatives, the FSA , dept.of Health
Social Care, NHS, or the government as a whole, either directly or indirectly, have an
interest or received payment , in either gratuities, monetary or shares, from any UK or
worldwide, pharmaceutical/chemical company?***

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

DHSC holds information on DHSC employees' Declarations of Interest. In line with the Department's code of business conduct, all employees are required to record and regularly review any potential or actual conflicts of interests, and this includes any financial interests, for example significant shareholdings or voting rights in a company or partnership. However, we consider that any information held as part of DHSC's Declaration of Interest list is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOIA, which provides for the protection of personal information, because under data protection principles, individuals would have a clear and strong expectation that their personal data will be held in confidence and not publicly disclosed.

DHSC's Code of Business Conduct, which is based on the requirements set out in the Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and various Government and Departmental corporate governance procedures, is the central framework detailing that civil servants must be honest, impartial and not allow their judgement or integrity to be comprised whilst carrying out their duties.

The Department takes seriously any breeches, and failure to comply with procedures could lead to disciplinary action, including dismissal or legal proceedings.

The Civil Service Code can be found online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-code/the-civil-service-code>

The Civil Service Management Code can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-servants-terms-and-conditions>

DHSC holds no relevant information for other government departments, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) or the NHS. FOI requests can be submitted to the FSA at FCT@food.gov.uk. Details of how to contact the NHS are on the NHS website at the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/ServiceDirectories/Pages/NHSTrustListing.aspx>

You may also wish to contact the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)(which is the government regulator for the safety of medicines) at

FOI_policy@mhra.gsi.gov.uk

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, 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