



# Department of Health & Social Care

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

Ms Amanda Hart  
request-669685-8fb22d18@whatdotheyknow.com

2 July 2020

Dear Ms Hart,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1232571**

Thank you for your request dated 9 June in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*“Dear Department of Health and Social Care,  
Please kindly provide the assessments provided to the department from scientists depicting the numbers of lives which could have been saved if a lockdown had been introduced in March 2020 to protect the public from Covid-19.”*

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

I have considered your request for information, but I am unable to answer it without further clarification. Section 1(3) of the FOIA does not oblige us to answer requests where we require further clarification to identify and locate the information requested.

So that I provide you with the right information, please can you explain what information you require. As ‘lockdown’ did occur in March 2020, do you require an estimate of the number of Covid- related deaths that might have occurred if lockdown had happened before March 2020? On receipt of this information I will continue to process your request.

Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a clarified request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Franklyn  
Freedom of Information Officer  
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