



# 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)

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

31 July 2020

Dear Ms Hart,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1237451**

Thank you for your request dated 3 July in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*“Dear Department of Health and Social Care,*

*Thanks for your clarification request. The lockdown started on 23rd March, but the Government was actually advised to commence it on 9th March by professor Steven Riley of the Imperial College in London. He added that mitigation – the strategy the government was following at the time – would lead to 1.7 million deaths.*

*With this in mind please provide the assessments or projections seen by the department between 9th March and 13th March depicting the number of lives that could be saved by an immediate lockdown as of that time.”*

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

I can confirm that the Department holds information relevant to your request.

However, as the information held by the Department 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.

Between 9th-13th March, the discussion of “lockdown” was in its very early stages and therefore there are a limited number of papers that the Scientific Pandemic Influenza group on Modelling (SPI-M-O) saw on this topic specifically. The two papers which were presented to SPI-M-O on the topic of “lockdown” are already in the public domain. These were Paper 1, Annex A and Paper 2.

### **Paper 1**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/891912/S0054\\_SAGE16\\_Imperial\\_Mitigation\\_Strategies.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/891912/S0054_SAGE16_Imperial_Mitigation_Strategies.pdf)

## **Paper 2**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/891933/S0051\\_SAGE\\_16\\_Managine\\_peak\\_incidence\\_LSHTM.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/891933/S0051_SAGE_16_Managine_peak_incidence_LSHTM.pdf)

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'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 SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns>

Yours sincerely,

Ed Franklyn  
Freedom of Information Officer  
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