



# 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)

Mr Ian Dalton  
request-718410-  
6bc78f2b@whatdotheyknow.com

26 January 2021

Dear Mr Dalton,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1292744**

Thank you for your request dated 14 January 2021 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*"I would like to see your full lockdown cost/benefit analysis and risk assessment for lockdowns that takes into account not just the financial impact of the lockdown on the economy, but also the cost to human life, mental health, effects on children and vulnerable people. It should also include the long term effects of the economic damage caused by the lockdowns such as poverty creation, homelessness, starvation etc. I would like to see your assessment of how lockdowns can be justified when set against the damage and additional loss of life that we know they cause."*

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

DHSC does not hold the information you requested. You may wish to contact the Cabinet Office (CO) directly, as it may hold the information you requested. CO can be contacted at [foiteam@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foiteam@cabinetoffice.gov.uk).

Outside of the scope of the FOIA, and on a discretionary basis, you may be interested in the information found at the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/944823/Analysis\\_of\\_the\\_health\\_economic\\_and\\_social\\_effects\\_of\\_COVID-19\\_and\\_the\\_approach\\_to\\_tiering\\_FINAL\\_-\\_accessible\\_v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/944823/Analysis_of_the_health_economic_and_social_effects_of_COVID-19_and_the_approach_to_tiering_FINAL_-_accessible_v2.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 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,

Hazel Percy  
Freedom of Information Officer  
E: [freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)