



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)

A Hall

By email to: [request-764639-5bfb57b3@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-764639-5bfb57b3@whatdotheyknow.com)

1 July 2022

Annex A: DHSC response to initial request

Annex B: Request for internal review

Dear A Hall,

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 (FOIA): INTERNAL REVIEW**

### **CASE REFERENCE: IR-1345643 (FOI-1337246)**

You originally wrote to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on 12 June 2021 requesting information relating to a draft London HIV strategy document. We responded to you on 12 July 2021 and a copy of our response, including the full text of your request, can be found in Annex A.

You subsequently emailed DHSC on 12 July requesting an internal review into the handling of your original request. A copy of your email can be found in Annex B.

The purpose of an internal review is to assess how your Freedom of Information (FOI) request was handled in the first instance and to determine whether the original decision given to you was correct. This is an independent review as I was not involved in the original decision.

I would like to apologise for the time taken to respond to your internal review request. The delay was due to an unprecedented level of internal reviews and FOI requests over the last two years.

### **Conclusion**

After careful consideration, I have concluded that the response you received to your FOI request was compliant with the requirements of the FOIA.

Additional electronic and manual searches were carried out, and it is confirmed a draft document is not held by DHSC.

Outside the scope of FOI and on a discretionary basis, you may wish to use the following links to the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine's website which has an online archive with links to a number of 'London HIV Strategies' all produced in 2001.

<http://calmview.lshtm.ac.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=GB+0809+SIGMA+Research%2f6%2f45&pos=3>  
<http://calmview.lshtm.ac.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=GB+0809+Fakoya%2f01%2f21&pos=1>  
<http://calmview.lshtm.ac.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=GB+0809+SIGMA+Research%2f6%2f46&pos=4>

The review is now complete.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by DHSC.

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,

FOI Internal Reviews  
[freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)

## Annex A: DHSC response to initial request

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/Ms A Hall [request-764639-5bfb57b3@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:5bfb57b3@whatdotheyknow.com)

12 July 2021

Dear Mr/Ms Hall,

### Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1337246

Thank you for your request dated 12 June 2021 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*Subject: Freedom of Information request - London HIV Strategy 2001 and beyond  
The GLA Health Committee considered commissioning HIV and AIDS services in 2004:  
This document is here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/..>*

*In their report they mentioned a Draft London HIV Strategy:*

*"A draft London HIV strategy was published in 2001 but as a result of organisational changes was never put into final form. The draft London HIV strategy will soon be updated and proactively implemented. The London Specialised Commissioning Group has prioritised work to develop an appropriate action plan to respond to the issues in the draft London HIV strategy."*

*Q1) Please provide a copy of the draft London HIV strategy mentioned or show where the published London HIV strategy can be read.*

*Q2) Please provide any correspondence with the GLA in relation to their report 'Living with the virus' link above.*

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

DHSC does not hold this information. We have conducted a search of our records (both electronic and hardcopy), and have found no information within scope of your request.

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,

## **Annex B: Request for internal review**

From: A Hall <request-764639-5bfb57b3@whatdotheyknow.com>  
Sent: 12 July 2021 23:08  
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>  
Subject: Internal review of Freedom of Information request - London HIV Strategy 2001 and beyond

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Department of Health and Social Care's handling of my FOI request 'London HIV Strategy 2001 and beyond'.

The GLA Scrutiny report Living with the Virus mentioned, makes recommendations to the Government and the Department for Health specifically. This would have required correspondence between the GLA and the Department of Health as requested within the FOI Request originally. Please conduct an internal review.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/london\\_hiv\\_strategy\\_2001\\_and\\_bey\\_2](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/london_hiv_strategy_2001_and_bey_2)

Yours faithfully,

A Hall