



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)

Dr Usma Meer

By email to: [request-1144797-e439fe77@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-1144797-e439fe77@whatdotheyknow.com)

6 August 2024

Dear Dr Meer,

**Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1516682**

Thank you for your request dated 8 July to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

DHSC does not hold any information relevant to your request. It may help if we explain that whilst the FOIA provides a right of access to recorded information held by public authorities (typically specific categories of recorded information, such as emails, letters, documents, reports, policies and datasets), it does not require public authorities to generate new information to answer questions, including providing explanations or giving opinions or views, if this is not recorded information that they already hold.

NHS England may hold information relevant to your request, as it has responsibility for managing medical specialty recruitment. If you should wish to direct your request to NHS England, its details for submitting a request under the FOIA are here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/foi/>.

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 sent to [freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk) or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within two months of the date 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.

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,

Freedom of Information Team  
[freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)

## Annex

From: Usma <request-1144797-e439fe77@whatdotheyknow.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 11:12 AM  
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>  
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Medical specialty recruitment assessment Through Oriel

Dear Department of Health and Social Care, Would you please:

1. inform me whether the DHSC has carried out any research on the effects of recruiting foreign doctors through MSRA with ORIEL and quality of those doctors and effect of those recruitments on local doctors?
2. inform me whether the DHSC is aware of any research on the effects of recruiting foreign doctors on local doctors? Is that taking away opportunities from local doctors to get in training and given to foreign doctors?
3. inform me whether the DHSC is aware of any research on MSRA exams held overseas? are they of same quality and same integrity? and not compromised like in INDIA / Kenya where most of exams are compromised and broadly reflects in media?
4. Inform me under what policy foreign doctors are prioritise in this recruitment process as compare to local doctors?
5. Inform me if DHSC or any government body aware of such situation? and are they doing anything about?
6. inform me will DHSC will look into the policy of keeping local doctors out of training and instead giving it to Foreign international doctors?

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Usma Meer.