



# 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 Scott Jarvis  
request-701832-d67b844f@whatdotheyknow.com

07 December 2020

Dear Mr Jarvis,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1269471**

Thank you for your request dated 07 November, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*"Thank you for your email and for your assistance. I would like to refine my request so it can be answered within the cost limit set out under the 2004 Fees Regulations. Please find below my refined request:*

*1) Please provide copies of emails made in the month of August 2020 by a) the Secretary of State, b) Damon Poole, c) Allan Nixon, d) Emma Dean where both the terms "Public Health England" and "National Institute for Health Protection" are mentioned.*

*I look forward to hearing from you."*

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

DHSC holds the information you have requested.

To provide the information as it is currently framed would exceed the appropriate cost limit set out in the FOIA.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA means public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for DHSC is set at £600, which represents the cost of one person spending 3.5 days determining whether we hold the information, and then locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Where section 12 applies to one part of a request we refuse all of the request as being over the cost limit, as advised by the Information Commissioner's Office.

We have estimated that the cost of providing emails made in the month of August where the Secretary of State, Damon Poole, Allan Nixon and Emma Dean relating to Public Health England and the National Institute for Health Protection are mentioned would exceed the appropriate limit.

This is because it would require extensive searches through mailboxes for emails related to your request. Consequently, we will not be answering your request.

Although we cannot answer your request at the moment, we may be able to answer a refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider, for example, refining your request to either one of the terms Public Health England or National Institute for Health Protection. Alternatively, you could also refine your request by selecting one of the named individuals in your request. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a refined request would fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

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,

Charlotte Chow  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk)