



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

Mr Scott Jarvis

By email to: request-701832-d67b844f@whatdotheyknow.com

09 November 2021

Dear Mr Jarvis,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1286723

Thank you for your request dated 04 January, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

"Thank you for your response to my request for information. I wish to refine my request to keep within the cost limit, as follows:

1) Please provide copies of emails made in the month of August 2020 by Emma Dean where the term 'National Institute for Health Protection' is mentioned."

This request followed your previous request FOI-1269471.

"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."

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

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

Please find attached to this email the relevant document relating to your request.

Please note that some of this information has been redacted under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, which provides for the protection of personal information. Section 40 prohibits a public body from disclosing personally identifiable information, as doing so would contravene data protection principles.

Some information has also been redacted under Section 35(1)(a) of the FOIA, which provides protection for the information that relates to the formulation or development of Government policy. Section 35 is a qualified exemption and requires consideration of the public interest test.

The DHSC recognises the general public interest in making this information available for the sake of greater transparency and openness.

However, the DHSC takes the view that the section 35 exemption is intended to ensure that the possibility of public exposure does not deter from full, candid and proper deliberation of policy formulation and development, including the exploration of all options.

Civil servants and subject experts need to be able to engage in the free and frank discussion of all the policy options internally, to expose their merits and demerits and their possible implications as appropriate. Their candour in doing so will be affected by their assessment of whether the content of such discussion will be disclosed. Premature disclosure of information protected under section 35 could prejudice good working relationships and the neutrality of civil servants.

Further redactions have also been made to information which is out of the 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 sent to 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.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF

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

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Chow
Freedom of Information Officer
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk