



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

Ms Melissa Smith
request-706822-2b48ad18@whatdotheyknow.com

24 November 2020

Dear Ms Smith,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1274303

Thank you for your request dated 18 November, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“The ten Dept of Health and Social Care consultations with the highest number of responses.

Please include the following information:

Number of responses

Name of consultation

Date of consultation”

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

I have considered your request for information, but I am unable to answer it without further clarification. Section 1(3) of the FOIA does not oblige us to answer a request where we require clarification to identify and locate the information requested.

Please clarify what timeframe you wish the scope of your request to focus on. Once this has been completed, we can proceed with your request. However, please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a clarified request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other FOIA exemptions will not apply.

You may find it helpful to refer to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) 'How to access information from a public body' webpage. It includes advice for requesters on how to word requests to get the best result. They are aimed at the general public and provide guidance on how to use section 1 rights responsibly and effectively. Future requests are less likely to be refused if framed in accordance with these guidelines. It can be found at the following link, under the section 'How should I word my request to get the best result?'

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information>

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, 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,

Piper Hewitt-Dudding
Freedom of Information Officer
FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk