



Department
of Health

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
G18, Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

www.gov.uk

Mr Ellis Sausman
request-436373-d06591cc@whatdotheyknow.com

2 November 2017

Dear Mr Sausman

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1100493

Thank you for your request dated 5 October in which you asked the Department of Health (DH):

*"Dear Department of Health,
Speaking at the Conservative Party Conference, Jeremy Hunt announced that from next year 12 trusts will be piloting a new app-based flexible working offer.
1) Name of the app-based offer
2) Name of the provider supplying the app
3) Have a contract been signed? If so, please state the start and end date
4) Please state the 12 trusts that will be piloting the app
5) Does the department have plans to extend the pilot across further trusts?
6) Does the department have plans to extend the staffing categories that will use the app?
Thank you for your time. "*

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

I can confirm that the Department holds information relevant to your request.

However, we consider that this information is exempt under Section 35 of the FOI Act, 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 Department recognises the general public interest in making this information available for the sake of greater transparency and openness.

However, the Department 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 in the near future. Premature disclosure of information

protected under section 35 could prejudice good working relationships, the neutrality of civil servants.

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 receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) who may decide to investigate your concerns. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response, and received our internal review response. The ICO will not usually investigate concerns where there has been an undue delay in bringing it to their attention. You should raise your concerns with them 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,

Edward Franklyn

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