



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 John Lubbock

By email to: request-795613-d57b53cf@whatdotheyknow.com

18 October 2021

Dear Mr Lubbock,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1364340

Thank you for your request dated 27 September, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

I am writing to request more information on the following contract with Oplus Healthcare for the supply of hand sanitiser.

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk%2Fnotice%2Fcf317f9-6093-48fa-816a-4d3db7906eab%3Forigin%3DSearchResults%26p%3D1&data=04%7C01%7Cfreedomofinformation%40dhsc.gov.uk%7C0502e0387def4bea029f08d981dd933a%7C61278c3091a84c318c1fef4de8973a1c%7C1%7C1%7C637683610926667086%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Imn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=J37jBh3npX%2BUqabFWofxFqQuOvMeXIm2aYEdFZR%2FJd8%3D&reserved=0>

This contract was awarded on 6 May 2020. Contracts are generally supposed to be published within 30 days of being awarded, though of course the pandemic pushed back some of these being published. However, a delay of over 16 months is unusual even by the standards of the past year.

Please can you let me know:

- 1) why has this contract taken so long to publish?
- 2) was the PPE purchased in this contract delivered successfully?
- 3) why is the start date of the contract, 23 April 2020, later than the incorporation date of this company on Companies House (27 April 2020)?

Yours faithfully,

John Lubbock”

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

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

1) Why has this contract taken so long to publish?

This was one of two contracts which were not published that were picked up as part of a reconciliation exercise undertaken by the Department for the National Audit Office. As we have always said, if the Department does find any such instances we will publish them accordingly, which is what we have done.

2) Was the PPE purchased in this contract delivered successfully?

All the PPE purchased has been successfully delivered.

3) Why is the start date of the contract, 23 April 2020, later than the incorporation date of this company on Companies House (27 April 2020)?

The submission was made in the name of Opulus Tech limited (company number 11931511) who were incorporated on 8th April 2019.

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