



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 Iain Overton
request-636987-90a65907@whatdotheyknow.com

14 February 2020

Dear Mr Overton,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1201453

Thank you for your request dated 20 January in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

How many instances of patient personal data breaches were recorded by your department in 2019?

Such personal data breaches might constitute examples where a patient's records were accessed without authorisation and/or due reason; where patients records were used by 3rd party contractors without the consent of the patient; where patient records was used without the patient's knowledge in a situation that would breach personal data protection laws.

Could you please list all instances that you know of where such events took place, listing the date, the nature of the breach, the Trust or company that was involved in the breach and any other relevant information that would fall within the cost capacities of this FOI, such as if there was a fine or prosecution.

If this FOI needs to be more focused, can you please suggest ways in which it can be, as I do not know the internal system by which NHS data breaches are centrally recorded. ”

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

DHSC does not hold the information you requested.

However, you may wish to contact NHS Digital, which may hold information relevant to your request. Details on how to do so are available at:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/contact-us/freedom-of-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 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'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

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

Yours sincerely,

Ed Franklyn
Freedom of Information Officer
E freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk