



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 Gemma Atkins

By email to: request-816706-3ad0e9fb@whatdotheyknow.com

18 February 2022

Dear Ms Atkins,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1393445

Thank you for your request dated 09 February, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*"Dear Department of Health and Social Care,
Further to my FOIA request, please advise when I should expect a response?
Please could you confirm if the Member of Parliament (Sajid Javid) in charge of the Dept of Health and Social Care is aware that the FOIA team are not responding to requests within the 20 working day deadline? Please provide this information as part of a new FOIA request.*

*Yours faithfully,
Gemma Atkins"*

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

1) Further to my FOIA request, please advise when I should expect a response?

We apologise if you did not receive our internal review response sent on 23 December 2021 (our ref: IR-1379890) – please see attached the original response.

2) Please could you confirm if the Member of Parliament (Sajid Javid) in charge of the Dept of Health and Social Care is aware that the FOIA team are not responding to requests within the 20 working day deadline? Please provide this information as part of a new FOIA request.

Under section 8(1) of the FOIA, the Department is not required to give opinions to answer your request.

I should explain that the FOIA provides a right of access to recorded information held by public authorities. Recorded information can typically include physical and electronic information such as emails, letters, documents, reports, policies, datasets, photographs and sound or video recordings. However, it does not require public authorities to generate new information to answer questions, including providing explanations or giving opinions, unless this is recorded information that they already hold.

You may find it helpful to refer to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) 'For the public' webpages. They include some 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. You can view the relevant section, 'How should I word my request to get the best result?', on the How to access information from a public body page of their website.

<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 sent to freedomofinformatiox@xxxx.xxv.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,

Freedom of Information Team
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk