



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
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www.gov.uk/dhsc

Mr S Carroll
request-702613-3d1456ef@whatdotheyknow.com

16 December 2020

Annex A: DHSC's response to initial request dated 25 November 2020
Annex B: Request for internal review dated 25 November 2020

Dear Mr Carroll,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA): INTERNAL REVIEW CASE REFERENCE IR 1267205

You originally wrote to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on 29 October requesting minutes of the meetings which took place between DHSC the England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS). We responded to you on 25 November (our ref: FOI-1267205), stating that we do not hold the requested information. A copy of our response, including the full text of your request, is at Annex A.

You subsequently emailed DHSC on 25 November requesting an internal review into the handling of your original request. A copy of your email is at Annex B.

The purpose of an internal review is to assess how your FOI request was handled in the first instance and to determine whether the decision given to you was correct. This is an independent review as I was not involved in the original decision.

I have undertaken discussions with the team that has responsibility for your request, and we have taken the opportunity to consider it again.

Conclusion

After careful consideration of the subject matter, I have concluded that the response you received was compliant with the requirements of the FOIA and I uphold DHSC's statement that the Department does not hold the requested information. As previously explained to you, DHSC and EIBSS did not discuss the issue of payments in any meetings between 1 October 2018 and 29 April 2019.

The review is now complete.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. 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,

Charlene Carter Casework Manager
Freedom of Information Team
FreedomofInformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Annex A: DHSC's response to initial request

Ms S Carroll
request-702613-3d1456ef@whatdotheyknow.com

25/11/2020

Dear Ms Carroll,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1267205

Thank you for your request dated 29 October, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC): "I am requesting the minutes of the meetings which took place between the DHSC the EIBSS prior to the announcement made 30/04/19 (01/10/18 - 29/04/19) that pertains with the issue of payments. To be specific how the decision was decided recorded at the meetings on the level of payments for beneficiaries how the tier system of payments was decided recorded at the meetings."

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

The DHSC does not hold the information you have requested. This is because DHSC and EIBSS did not discuss the issue of payments in any meetings between 01/10/18 and 29/04/19.

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
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Annex B: Request for internal review

S Carroll request-702613-3d1456ef@whatdotheyknow.com

25 November 2020

Dear Ms Alexander,

Thank you for your response.

I believe the answer provided is not correct with the information I already possess. A meeting took place on the 21/01/19 between the relevant parties to propose the tier system. I fail to see how it could have been implemented without further meeting to discuss this. There would have had to have been a meeting in regard to securing the uplift in funding to enable the tier system implementation.

I would ask that another look is taken at the records held by the DHSC.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

S Carroll