



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 Edward Paine
request-766067-687083ba@whatdotheyknow.com

05 July 2021

Dear Mr Paine,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1338462

Thank you for your request dated 17 June, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“Dear Department of Health and Social Care

The Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) provides key data used to inform ministerial decisions on red, amber and green list country and territory classifications. On 7 May 2021 the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSS) published data on 12 green and 3 red countries, and on 4 June data on one country (Portugal) moving from green to amber and 7 countries moving from amber to red.

You have not published the equivalent data for the 43 remaining red list countries, which are (as at 17 June 2021) Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic), Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, French Guiana, Guyana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, Turkey, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

I would be grateful if you would please either publish the missing data or provide them in a reply to this Freedom of Information request.

Yours faithfully

Edward Paine”

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

DHSC holds some information relating to your request. However, to provide the information as it is currently framed would exceed the appropriate cost limit set out in the FOIA.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA means public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for DHSC is set at £600, which represents the cost of one person spending 24 working hours

determining whether we hold the information, and then locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We have estimated that the cost of compiling, quality assuring and clearing this information would exceed the appropriate limit. Consequently, we will not be answering your request.

Although we cannot answer your request at the moment, we may be able to answer a refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider, for example, narrow your request to a specific country. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a refined request would fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

Outside the scope of the FOIA, and on a discretionary basis you may find the following links and information helpful.

- Testing, positivity and variants by country / territory, England arrivals: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/weekly-statistics-for-nhs-test-and-trace-england-10-june-to-16-june-2021> [data table, 21]
- Weekly incidence rates: <https://covid19.who.int/>
- Vaccination data: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>
- GISAIID Uploads: <https://www.gisaid.org/>

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Chow
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FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk