



Mr Jonathan Boyle

By email to: request-1227436-1e774337@whatdotheyknow.com

11 February 2025

Dear Mr Boyle,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1568225

Thank you for your request dated 19 January to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

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

DHSC does not hold the information you requested.

The FOIA provides a right of access to recorded information held by public authorities (typically including information such as emails, letters, documents, reports, policies and datasets), 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. With regard to the phrasing of your request, you may find it helpful to consult the Information Commissioner's Office website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information>, specifically the subsection entitled 'How should I word my request to get the best result?'.

We have additional information which we are providing to you on a discretionary basis. This is outside the scope of the FOIA and not subject to internal review.

The Sinclair method is not recommended in NICE guidelines or in the UK clinical guidelines on alcohol treatment which will be published over the coming months. The method involves a medication that is recommended in guidelines, but the specific approach is not recommended.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you can request we undertake an internal review. If doing so, it would be helpful for you to be explicit which areas of the Freedom of Information response you consider dissatisfactory. Complaints to us should be sent to freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within 40 working days 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 complained to us about our original response and received our response to your complaint and, if applicable, our internal review decision.

You should raise your concerns with the ICO within six weeks of your last substantive contact with us.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Annex

From: Jonathan Boyle <request-1227436-1e774337@whatdotheyknow.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2025 3:34 PM
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Sinclair method as approved treatment through NHS

[You don't often get email from request-1227436-1e774337@whatdotheyknow.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

1. In light of its 80% success rate in treating alcohol use disorder, in comparison to the AA/rehab model where the success rate is 15%, is the Sinclair method an approved treatment by the NHS through GP's and relevant Consultants, such as Psychiatrists or Hepatologists?

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailymail.co.uk%2Femail%2Fartic&data=05%7C02%7Cdhmail%40dhsc.gov.uk%7C6490f3f72e0f4a2bb1dd08dd39289591%7C61278c3091a84c318c1fef4de8973a1c%7C1%7C0%7C638729568639759735%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWVpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PIur7afSGJaSy3QAqcJFrMc6h3T3CQaqpSfO0Zh6o3Y%3D&reserved=0...>

2. If not, why not?

3. If not, are there plans for it to be introduced as an approved treatment?

Yours faithfully,

Jonathan Boyle