



Mr John Bradfield

By email to: [request-1129065-c9c68cc8@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-1129065-c9c68cc8@whatdotheyknow.com)

10 June 2024

Dear Mr Bradfield,

### **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1512844**

Thank you for your request dated 11 May 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 have requested.

In response to your specific requests, under section 8(1) of the FOIA, DHSC is not required to provide explanations to answer your request.

We 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's (ICO's) '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 to write an effective request for information', on the 'How to access information from a public authority' page of its website, which can be found at <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 [freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.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.

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](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)

## Annex

From: EM Agnew <request-1129065-c9c68cc8@whatdotheyknow.com>  
Sent: Saturday, May 11, 2024 2:22 PM  
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>  
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Suicide prevention - "cross-sector strategy" - meaning and implications

Dear Victoria Atkins,

This request is addressed to you as the current Secretary of State.

Regarding the Suicide Prevention Strategy and associated action plan, published on the 11 Sept 2023, please provide the following details from your written records.

1. Exactly what is meant by "cross-sector strategy", e.g. every public, voluntary and commercial organisation or specialist organisations?
2. Is the government as a whole supporting the strategy?
3. Are all government Ministers required to comply with the basic principles of the strategy?
4. Which if any central government departments, are currently known to be unwilling to work consistently within both the letter and spirit of the basic principles of the strategy?
5. Will the Cabinet Office or another branch of the government, bring any resistant central government organisations into line with the basic principles of the strategy?
6. Which public services are required to ensure, that those bereaved by suicide, are fully informed of their legal rights and fully supported, to pursue any lawful and sensitive options, in the immediate hours and days which follow?

Yours faithfully,

John Bradfield