



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](http://www.gov.uk/dhsc)

Mr Kaleb Clark

By email to: [request-719394-52e2988f@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-719394-52e2988f@whatdotheyknow.com)

9 August 2022

Dear Mr Clark,

**Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1413247**

Thank you for your request dated 23 July 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 holds the information you have requested. Please find attached to this response, a copy of the Health Service Guideline HSG (94)5: Introduction of Supervision Registers for Mentally Ill People from 1 April 1994.

***Can you confirm that Supervision registers were formally introduced into the NHS from 1 April 1994/issued by the NHS Executive (HSG (94)5) Health Service Guidelines?***

Yes. Health Service Guideline HSG(94)5 introduced the requirement from 1 April 1994 for all health authorities to ensure that mental health service providers established and maintained supervision registers which identified those people with a severe mental illness who may have been a significant risk to themselves or to others.

***Can you confirm the purpose of Supervision registers?***

As set out in the Guideline, the establishment of supervision registers was intended as a means of identifying all individuals who were under the care of an NHS provider and who were known to be at significant risk or potentially at significant risk of committing serious violence or suicide or of serious self-neglect as a result of severe and enduring mental illness.

***Can you confirm the qualifying aspects to be registered on the Supervision registers?***

The Guideline set out that patients should be included if a care programme review meeting concluded that they were suffering from a severe mental illness and were, or were liable to be, at significant risk of committing serious violence or suicide or of severe self-neglect in some foreseeable circumstances which it was felt might well arise in a particular case (e.g. ceasing to take medication, loss of a supportive relationship or loss of accommodation). Registers were not intended for young people under 16 years of age.

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**

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Can you confirm that Supervision registers were formally introduced into the NHS from 1 April 1994/issued by the NHS Executive (HSG(94)5) Health Service Guidelines?

Can you confirm the purpose of Supervision registers?

Can you confirm the qualifying aspects to be registered on the Supervision registers?

Yours faithfully,

Mr C