



Mr Samuel Clements

By email to: [request-1156457-37165b78@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-1156457-37165b78@whatdotheyknow.com)

9 September 2024

Dear Mr Clements,

**Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1523563**

Thank you for your request dated 9 August 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).

The questions raised in your request are below in **bold** and we will address the points raised in turn.

**What is the total budget/funding which has been made available?**

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

Up to £45 million has been allocated to the scheme.

**Until what date will the budget remain available?**

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

This budget covers the period from April 2023 to March 2025.

**From the total budget available, how much is remaining?**

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

From the total 24/25 budget, £14.2 million has been spent to date, which leaves a total of £15.2 million uncommitted.

**In total, how many vouchers have been allocated?**

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

For clarification, we are interpreting 'vouchers' as total number of vape starter kits awarded.

To date, 451,878 vape starter kits have been awarded.

## **What is the total value of all vouchers allocated?**

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

The total value of all vape starter kits awarded is £17.5 million.

## **For each company Supplying products under this scheme, please detail the amount vouchers assigned/allocated to each company and the total value of vouchers allocated to each company. Company names can be redacted**

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

DHSC have contracted with the two providers of the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Tail Spend procurement platforms to provide vape starter kits for the scheme. These providers are Mercateo Unite and OT Group.

The CCS platform providers, Mercateo Unite and OT Group, are responsible for sourcing vendors to provide vape starter kits.

To date the number and value of vape starter kits awarded to each provider is as follows:

- Mercateo Unite: 415K vape starter kits at a value of £16 million
- OT Group: 37K vape starter kits at a value of £1.5 million

## **Please provide a breakdown of vouchers allocated to type of organisation such as NHS Trusts, Councils, Charities etc**

DHSC does not hold the information you have requested.

We are unable to provide this breakdown due to how expressions of interest (EOI) are received and awarded. Local authorities can submit bids in partnership with NHS Trusts and Integrated Care Partnerships. Therefore, EOIs may cover multiple agencies.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of this 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

-----Original Message-----

From: Samuel James Clements <request-1156457-37165b78@whatdotheyknow.com>

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 10:28 AM

To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>

Subject: Freedom of Information request - Swap to Stop funding allocations

Dear Sir/Madam,

As I understand it, the UK government has allocated approximately £45 million over two years for the Swap to Stop scheme, which aims to help one million smokers quit by providing them with free vaping kits which are provided to them by Local Councils, NHS trusts etc who submit Bids or an 'Expression of Interest' detailing the qty of vouchers they require as part of their local strategies.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the following information regarding the Swap to Stop scheme:

What is the total budget/funding which has been made available?

Until what date will the budget remain available?

From the total budget available, how much is remaining?

In total, how many vouchers have been allocated?

What is the total value of all vouchers allocated?

For each company Supplying products under this scheme, please detail the amount vouchers assigned/allocated to each company and the total value of vouchers allocated to each company. Company names can be redacted.

Please provide a breakdown of vouchers allocated to type of organisation such as NHS Trusts, Councils, Charities etc.

I would like the information to be provided in electronic format, and I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days as outlined by the Act.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Samuel Clements

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