



Dr B Lee

By email to: request-1116826-a3da84d6@whatdotheyknow.com

7 May 2024

Dear Dr Lee,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1505860

Thank you for your request dated 12 April 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).

To provide the information as it is currently framed would exceed the appropriate cost limit set out in the FOIA.

Section 12(2) 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 hours determining whether we hold the information, and then locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We have estimated that the cost of determining whether the information held is within scope of your request 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, providing a time period for a search, providing a specific subject area or limiting your request to certain individuals within DHSC, for example ministers, to help narrow the search. 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.

In relation to your last question, I 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 (ICO) '*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. You can view the relevant section, '*How*

should I word my request to get the best result?', on the How to access information from a public body page of their website.

<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 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

Annex

From: Dr B Lee request-1116826-a3da84d6@whatdotheyknow.com
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 7:07 PM
To: FreedomofInformation freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk
Subject: Freedom of Information request - The DHSC's role in the changing of Physician Assistant to Physician Associate.

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

The Faculty of Physician Associates, formerly known as the UK Association of Physician Assistants, has claimed that their change of name from Physician Assistant to Physician Associate was due to advice from the DHSC that it wouldn't be possible to regulate their NHS job role under their former title.

I am requesting ALL emails, minutes etc. between the DHSC and the FPA/UKAPA going back indefinitely.

I am also requesting ALL emails, minutes etc. referring to PA regulation.

I am also requesting an answer to the question:

Did the DHSC advise UKAPA to change their name from Assistant to Associate because it wouldn't be possible to regulate an Assistant role?

Yours faithfully,

Dr B Lee