



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 030 3444 0000

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Mr Phil Booth
Via Email

Date: **15 September 2020**

Dear Mr Booth

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 8774885

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 17 August 2020 and processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*"With reference to the contract for 'Data scientists for MHCLG Covid-19 response', awarded to Faculty Science Ltd:
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/e73b370a-83aa-4944-a06c-70bea0b2c624>*

*and with regard to the amended contract, published on 30 July 2020:
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/Attachment/249927> that
"identified three areas where immediate support is required:
1. Analysis of free text collected by MHCLG to gain insights on how local areas are coping with and responding to the COVID-19 crisis 2. Topic analysis of Social Media to understand public perception and emerging issues of concern to HMG arising from the COVID-19 crisis..."*

*and the original contract, awarded on 27 May 2020:
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/Attachment/244384> which
listed the "data sources (e.g. social media, utility providers and telecom bills, credit rating agencies, etc.) as well as data provided by MHCLG for monitoring and forecasting".*

Please provide the following:

1) The full list of published press articles and individual social media posts by Ministers, MPs and Government Departments and Agencies that were analysed;

2) The full list of the other data sources provided to Faculty Science Ltd by MHCLG, and/or processed by Faculty in the course of its analysis;

3) The full list of questions which Faculty Science Ltd was required to address in its analysis;

4) The full list of key words and/or search terms used to generate the structured queries underpinning the "Topic analysis"; and

5) A copy of the "Topic analysis", i.e. the results and/or report of Faculty Science Ltd's analysis."

We are writing to confirm that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) does hold some information relevant to your request.

In response to part 1.

We can confirm that following a search of electronic and paper records the department does not hold any information relevant to this part of your request. No published press articles and individual social media posts were provided to MHCLG.

In response to part 2.

The only data sources processed by Faculty for the Topic Analysis work was Twitter data which Faculty accessed directly from Twitter.

In response to part 3.

The specification for the work are available at the link below in the 'Award Notice' and 'Technical Specifications'.

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b7bbcaf0-22f0-4684-9a22-06667fdd2177?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

As this is reasonably accessible to you, under section 21 of the FOIA, the department is not obliged to provide a copy to you.

In response to part 4.

The keywords for the 'anchored' topic analysis were, 'homelessness', 'high street', 'vulnerable people' and 'housing market'.

In response to part 5.

We can confirm that following a search of electronic and paper records the department does not hold any information relevant to this part of your request. Results were made available via an interactive dashboard not via a static report.

Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you. (This is called an internal review.) If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within two months of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Knowledge and Information Access Team
4th Floor SE, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address casewo@ico.org.uk or use their online form at ico.org.uk/concerns or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

MHCLG FOI Team