



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

Ms Anna Pongracz
request-725637-78d1d70d@whatdotheyknow.com

12 February 2021

Dear Ms Pongracz,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1302856

Thank you for your request dated 9 February, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*“Thank you for publishing your spend data here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/spending-over-25-000--2> . However, I notice that you haven't published any spending data since August 2020.*

We understand that due to the COVID-19 pandemic it may not have been a priority to publish your spending data. However, we strongly believe that the spending data is critical to understanding how Government functions and this data is vital for our work. We would be extremely grateful if you could update this information as soon as reasonably possible.

I'd like to make a request under the Freedom of Information act for all transactions over £25,000 from September 2020 to a month in arrears from the date at which you publish in response to this request.

Please provide the data in a machine readable format (preferably csv). As a minimum, please make sure to include the date, value and recipient of each transaction. Please also provide details on the procurement category of each transaction if you have it.

*Your team may also be interested in the guidance on producing spending data:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-publishing-spend-over-25000>.*

For the avoidance of doubt, I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act. I await your response within 20 working days.”

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Section 14(2) permits a public body to refuse a request for information if the request is identical, or substantially similar to a previous request submitted by the same individual, unless a reasonable period has elapsed between those requests.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has produced guidance on the application of Section 14(2), which states that the following criteria must be met:

- the request is identical or substantially similar to a previous request from the same requester;
- the authority has previously provided the information to the requester or confirmed that it is not held in response to the earlier FOIA request; and
- a reasonable interval has not elapsed between the new request and compliance with the previous request.

On 11 May and 15 July, we received requests from you that asked for information relating to spend data. We provided a response to each of those requests (sections 21 and 22). We consider this request to be substantially similar to your previous requests and under section 14(2) we will not be answering your request.

As you are aware, DHSC is committed to proactive publication of transparency and spend data and will publish transactions over £25,000 from September 2020 onwards in due course.

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 submitted within two months of the date of this letter and sent to FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk, or to the address at the top 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.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Nicole Mercer
Freedom of Information Officer
FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk