

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Public Accountability Unit Wellington House 133-155 Waterloo Road London SE1 8UG

www.gov.uk/phe

By email

request-738418-a6bfecef@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: 24/05/21/ld/359

22 June 2021

Dear Matt Richards,

Re: Internal review of Case ref: No. 3084 - Historic copies of IPC guidance

I refer to your email of 24 May 2021 requesting an internal review of the handling of case reference 3084, in relation to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act).

Your Request case ref: 3084

Public Health England (PHE) received your information request on the 19 March 2021.

Under the FOI Act PHE had until the 20 April 2021 to respond to your request.

Response Case ref: 3084

PHE sent you its response on the 13 April 2021 and, correctly, confirmed it did hold the information you requested and applied the Section 21 – *information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means* exemption to your request.

PHE also provided you with the following link to the National Archives website, where the information you requested could be found: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/webarchive/

Internal review decision

PHE has now conducted the internal review and concludes that PHE sent you its response to your request for information within the statutory deadline. PHE can confirm it has correctly applied the Section 21 – *information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means* exemption to your request.

However, PHE could have provided you with a direct link to the webpage where the information you requested can be accessed. Archived versions of PHE's 'COVID-19: infection prevention and control (IPC)' guidance can be found at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by calling the ICO's helpline on 0303 123 1113, visiting the ICO's website at www.ico.org.uk or writing to the ICO at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Manager