



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](http://www.gov.uk/dhsc)

Mr Adrian Latcham

By email to: [request-817832-95f0d23f@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-817832-95f0d23f@whatdotheyknow.com)

17 February 2022

Dear Mr Latcham,

**Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1381131**

Thank you for your request dated 21 December, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

*“Can you please supply me with all communications between Matt Hancock and the World Economic Forum between the 1st January 2020 and 27th June 2021.”*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. After further consideration we are no longer considering the use of s.27 and s.35 of the FOIA in relation to this request. We are now refusing your request under the provisions of Section 14(1) of the FOIA. Section 14 permits a public body to refuse a request for information if the request is vexatious. We believe that compliance with your request, and the time and resource in undertaking the necessary work, would be unreasonably burdensome to DHSC. It may help if I explain the volume of information in scope is extremely large, and we cannot justify the time and resource required to carry out the extraction, review and redaction of this information.

Each email in scope would need to be considered in very careful detail by DHSC in order to any potentially exempt information. It does not seem reasonable or in the public interest to put additional strain on DHSC in reviewing all of the emails for possible disclosure.

For the reason above we have therefore concluded that the effort required to process your request will be oppressive in terms of the strain on DHSC's time and resources.

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](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.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team  
[freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)