



By email

request-721935-e5b7d439@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: 27/01/nk/2596

24 February 2021

Dear Adrian McErlean

Re: Freedom of Information request - Why has the flu been rebranded?

Thank you for your request received on 27 January 2021 addressed to Public Health England (PHE). In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that PHE partly holds the information you have specified.

Request

1) Do you intentionally want the public scared of normal flu deaths this year and never before?

2) Why don't you release covid19 only deaths?

Public Health England (PHE) can confirm your request is not caught by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) as you have not made a request for recorded information held by PHE. Under Section 16 of the Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance to requesters. In view of this PHE would like to clarify, the Act provides the public with access to recorded information held by public authorities about their activities. PHE is not obliged to provide opinion to satisfy a request.

3) What evidence have you got for LONG COVID?

4) What evidence have you got for asymptomatic spread?

PHE partly holds the information you have specified. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance. Additionally, you may wish to note that asymptomatic transmission has been discussed at meetings of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and the New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group

(NERVTAG). The minutes and papers of these meetings are available at the below links:

- NERVTAG meetings:
<https://app.box.com/s/3lkcbxepqixkg4mv640dpvvg978ixjtf>
- SAGE meetings:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sage-meetings-may-2020>

You may wish to contact the NHS for further information on Long COVID, for your convenience I have provided a link to page on 'Post Covid syndrome'
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/post-covid-syndrome-long-covid/>

5)How many people have DIED FROM COVID19 with no underlying medical problems?

PHE can confirm the subject matter in question does not fall within PHE's remit. We, therefore, confirm PHE does not hold the information you have requested.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance. Accordingly, you may wish to contact the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and NHS England which may be able to assist you further.

ONS has responsibility for the production of mortality data and death registration for England and Wales. You can access the monthly mortality analysis for England and Wales at the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/monthlymortalityanalysisenglandandwales/previousReleases>
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deathsinvovingcovid19englandandwales>

Additionally, NHS England collects information on COVID-19 deaths in hospitals and whether pre-existing conditions were known, which can be found at the following link:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

6)DYING WITH is very different than DYING FROM. So do you use dying with just to justify the lockdown?

Public Health England (PHE) can confirm your request is not caught by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) as you have not made a request for recorded information held by PHE. Under Section 16 of the Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance to requesters. In view of this PHE would like to clarify, the Act provides the public with access to recorded information held by public authorities about their activities. PHE is not obliged to provide opinion to satisfy a request.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to me in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied

and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing foi@phe.gov.uk.

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 Team