



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

[REDACTED]

4 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1247803

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

"All records in the possession, custody or control of The Department of Health and Social Care describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken from a diseased patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka vero cells; lung cells from a lung cancer patient).

Please note that I am using "isolation" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. I am not requesting records where "isolation of SARS-COV-2" refers instead to:

- * the culturing of something,*
- * or the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test),*
- * or the sequencing of something.*

Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by the The Department of Health and Social Care or that pertain to work done by The Department of Health and Social Care. My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that the Department of Health and Social Care has downloaded or printed.

If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it).

Format:

Pdf documents sent to me via email; I do not wish for anything to be shipped to me."

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

DHSC does not hold the information you have requested.

You may wish to direct your request to Public Health England (PHE) and the Government Office for Science (Go-Science). FOI requests can be submitted to PHE at FOI@phe.gov.uk, and to Go-Science at contact@go-science.gov.uk.

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,

Lauren Der
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FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk