



Mr Wynne Jones

By email to: [cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru](mailto:cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru)

3 November 2021

Dear Mr Jones,

### Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1366345

Thank you for your request dated 6 October 2021 to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) (for clarity, one of three requests of that date), the full text of which is attached (including the attachments forwarded with your request). Your exact request was as follows:

*“Details of the “financial compensation scheme”, funded by UK Government, for those that have received life-changing injuries following the roll-out of the experimental mRNA / DNA based gene-editing therapies for Covid 19 infection.*

*The information will enable me to respond to enquiries received from the general public since April 2021.”*

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

We note that in the attachments to your request you have referred to the “Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines”, and we have therefore interpreted your request to be referring to the Vaccine Damage Payments Scheme (VDPS), which relates to side-effects to vaccines.

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. However, as the information held by DHSC is in the public domain, we will, therefore, under section 21 of the FOIA (information accessible to the applicant by other means), refer you to the published source.

Information in relation to the administration of the VDPS is set out at the following section of the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/vaccine-damage-payment>.

Outside of the scope of the FOIA, and on a discretionary basis, you may be interested in the following information. The COVID-19 vaccines are not experimental. Each COVID-19 vaccine candidate is assessed by teams of scientists and clinicians on a case by case basis, and is only authorised once it has met robust standards of effectiveness, safety and quality, set by the UK’s medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The COVID-19 vaccines currently in use in the UK were only deployed once they were authorised by the MHRA as approved products. Large clinical trials have been undertaken for each of the COVID-19 vaccines approved in the UK, which found that they are highly efficacious at preventing symptomatic disease in the populations that were studied. Further, the COVID-19 vaccines are not gene-editing therapies. Gene therapies involve making deliberate changes to a patient’s DNA in order to cure or alleviate a genetic condition. The mRNA from the vaccines does not enter the cell nucleus

or interact with the DNA at all, so it does not constitute gene therapy. More information is available at the following link: [Why mRNA vaccines aren't gene therapies - Genomics Education Programme \(hee.nhs.uk\)](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/education-programme/why-mrna-vaccines-arent-gene-therapies)

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Crowe  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)