



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

Mr Wynne Jones
By email to: cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru

26 October 2021

Dear Mr Jones,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1364455

Thank you for your request dated 28 September, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“Dear Team Members

Subject: C J 192 - Protocol for disclosing conflict of interest - Senior medical / scientific advisors to DHSC

I refer to the above subject and attach letter dated 3 September 2021 from Cabinet Office.

You will note that I have been redirected to DHSC as information, previously requested, is only "partially held" by Cabinet Office. Accordingly, I would be grateful if you could arrange to provide me with the following information at your convenience.

I would be pleased to receive details of regulations and / or guidance currently in place at DHSC setting out the requirements for senior medical / scientific advisors to declare any conflict of interest.

If you require further clarification you are welcome to contact me at any time. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Wynne Jones”

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

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

All civil servants at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) are expected to abide by the Civil Service Code and its core values and they must not allow their judgement or integrity to be compromised in fact or by reasonable implication.

In addition, and in line with the requirements of DHSC’s code of business conduct, all staff are required to record and regularly review gifts, hospitality or any potential or actual conflicts of interests they may receive including any nil returns during the financial year.

This requirement also applies to non-civil servants who are engaged in undertaking work with, or on behalf of, DHSC.

In particular this means that they must therefore not:

- misuse their official position or information acquired during official duties to further private interests or those of others
- receive gifts, hospitality or benefits of any kind from a third party, which might be seen to compromise personal judgement or integrity as a civil servant.

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 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,

Charlotte Chow
Freedom of Information Officer
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk