



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
cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru

15 January 2021

Dear Mr Jones,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1271827

Thank you for your request dated 12 November in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“I attach press release from the D H S C dated 9 November [updated 10 November]. In view of ongoing litigation in Germany and Canada regarding, inter alia, the validity of the RT-PCR test for the diagnosis of Covid 19 infection, I would be grateful if you could arrange to provide me with the following information regarding the new rapid turnaround lateral flow tests now being deployed. A copy of the scientific / medical evidence presented to the D H S C by either Public Health England and / or your regulator the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency [M H R A], confirming that this new testing technology is able to diagnose Covid 19 infection.

Explanatory note:

The scientific / medical evidence now requested can include the Product Information Sheet and Safety Data Sheet for the new lateral flow test or, alternatively, other documentation presented to D H S C confirming the validity of the test.

I look forward to receiving the information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, at your earliest convenience. If you require further clarification you are welcome to contact me at any time.”

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

I can confirm that the Department holds information relevant to your request.

However, as the information held by the Department is in the public domain we will, under Section 21 of the FOIA (information accessible to the applicant by other means), refer you to the published source.

https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/UK%20evaluation_PHE%20Porton%20Down%20University%20of%20Oxford_final.pdf

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 receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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,

Ed Franklyn
Freedom of Information Officer
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