



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

Dr Minh Alexander

By email

11 November 2022

Dear Dr Alexander,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1422015

Thank you for your request dated 14 October to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

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

DHSC holds information relevant to your request however it is important to note that these answers are only for information DHSC holds. We do not hold information on behalf of NHS England, UKSA or any other NHS body who handle their own Freedom of Information requests. You may wish to contact them individually at the addresses below:

NHS England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/foi/>

UKSHA: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency>

The answers to your questions are as follows:

Please disclose what data is held centrally by the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, UKHSA or any other DHSC or NHS body on:

The numbers of NHS staff diagnosed with long covid, to date.

DHSC does not hold any data relevant to your request.

On a discretionary basis and outside the scope of the FOIA it may interest you to know that the Office of National Statistics publish information on long COVID-19 which can be found at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/prevalenceofongoingsymptomsfollowingcoronaviruscovid19infectionintheuk/3november2022#:~:text=An%20estimated%202.1%20million%20people,of%201%20October%202022%3B%20these.>

The numbers of NHS staff to date with long covid who have taken legal action against the NHS or the government for personal injury relating to long covid.

DHSC holds information relevant to your request, there are no cases of legal action against DHSC for personal injury relating to long COVID-19.

DHSC does not hold information relevant to legal action against the NHS. You may instead wish to contact NHS Resolution who may hold this information. Should you wish to do so, NHS Resolution can be contacted at <https://resolution.nhs.uk/contact/>.

The numbers of NHS staff to date who have left their employment due to long covid

DHSC does not hold this information. Standard publications of information by NHS Digital does not record this level of detail and we are not aware of any specific NHS collections known to DHSC.

If there is currently no central data held by the DHSC, DHSC bodies or NHS bodies on the above matters (number of staff diagnosed with long covid, number of staff who have taken legal action for personal injury and number of staff who have left NHS employment due to long covid), is there a plan to collate and track such data in the future? If so, please disclose relevant records detailing any such plan.

DHSC does not have any plans to collect this information.

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.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Annex

From: minhalexander@aol.com <minhalexander@aol.com>
Sent: 14 October 2022 12:16
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Government tracking of long covid in NHS staff

Dear Sir,

Government tracking of long covid in NHS staff

Please disclose what data is held centrally by the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, UKHSA or any other DHSC or NHS body on

- the numbers of NHS staff diagnosed with long covid, to date
- the numbers of NHS staff to date with long covid who have taken legal action against the NHS or the government for personal injury relating to long covid.
- the numbers of NHS staff to date who have left their employment due to long covid

If the DHSC holds any of the above data, please disclose this data and any related reports on the extent to which NHS staff have been injured by COVID19, including cases of long covid.

If there is currently no central data held by the DHSC, DHSC bodies or NHS bodies on the above matters (number of staff diagnosed with long covid, number of staff who have taken legal action for personal injury and number of staff who have left NHS employment due to long covid), is there a plan to collate and track such data in the future?

If so, please disclose relevant records detailing any such plan.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Minh Alexander