



Department
of Health

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
G18, Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

www.gov.uk

Mr Jim O'Dwyer
jim.odwyer@btinternet.com

26 September 2017

Dear Mr O'Dwyer

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1096092

Thank you for your request dated 29 August 2017 in which you asked the Department of Health (DH):

"I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please send me:

- 1. The names of the individual(s) at the Department of Health Anti-Fraud Unit, who recommended or made the decision to decommission NHS Protect's Security Management functions w.e.f. 01/04/2017.*
- 2. Details of the business case (i.e. rationale/reasoning) underpinning the decision to decommission NHS Protect's Security Management functions w.e.f. 01/04/2017*

I would prefer that the information I have requested be provided to me electronically (by email).

If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the relevant confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed.

I look forward to hearing from you. Meanwhile, I'd be grateful if you could confirm by email that you have received this request. "

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

I can confirm that the DH does not hold the information you requested.

Outside the scope of FOIA and on a discretionary basis we can provide you with the following information. The recommendation or decision to decommission NHS Protect's Security Management functions was not made by the Department of Health Anti-Fraud Unit.

At the time this decision was made, responsibility for Security Management within DH resided with the former DH Assurance Directorate. As part of the 20-20 restructuring of the Department this Directorate no longer exists.

NHS Protect has never had an operational role for security management work. Employers in the NHS are responsible for assessing risks to staff and addressing those risks. The role of NHS Protect was to develop national guidance to assist NHS organisations locally in their security management work. Comprehensive and detailed guidance is now available to NHS employers to assist them in assessing and managing the risks accordingly and involving the police where appropriate.

Additionally, there is a mature network of trained local security management specialists in place across the country. The standards for security management work are imposed through the relevant clauses of the standard commissioning contract between commissioners and providers. It is commissioners' responsibility to ensure that security management standards are met in accordance with the contract. NHS England is responsible for the standard commissioning contract and the clauses within it. Trusts appoint trained and accredited security management specialists who have responsibility for taking forward security management work locally within their health bodies. The work is overseen by members of the executive boards who are responsible for providing strategic management and support for all security management work within their organisations. These individuals have responsibility for ensuring their trusts have a security management strategy in place that is supported by policies, procedures and physical security measures.

Due to these measures now being firmly in place, widespread and well established, the requirement for NHS Protect to assist further was no longer required.

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 (ICO) who may decide to investigate your concerns. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response, and received our internal review response. The ICO will not usually investigate concerns where there has been an undue delay in bringing it to their attention. You should raise your concerns with them 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,

Edward Franklyn

Freedom of Information Officer
FreedomOfInformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk