



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 Russell Scott

By email to: request-1036722-e428b5d8@whatdotheyknow.com

6 December 2023

Dear Mr Scott,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1472889

Thank you for your request dated 11 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) and we apologise for the delay in replying.

DHSC holds the information you have requested. Please see the attached PDF documents accompanying this letter.

Please note that some of this information has been redacted under section 40(2) of the FOIA, which provides for the protection of personal information. Section 40 prohibits a public body from disclosing personally identifiable information, as doing so would contravene data protection principles.

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: Russell Scott <request-1036722-e428b5d8@whatdotheyknow.com>
Sent: 11 October 2023 11:45
To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Freedom of Information request - WhatsApp chat group between Hancock, Harding and Bethell

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

BACKGROUND INFO

During the pandemic Matt Hancock, Dido Harding and Lord James Bethell participated in a WhatsApp group. The groups WhatsApp chat name was "TnT Matt Dido Jim"

This was confirmed in an FOI response by the DHSC in a recent FOI response (CASE REFERENCE: IR-1462234 (FOI-1458018)).

MY REQUEST:

- 1 - Please can you confirm the date this messaging group was established?
- 2 - Please can you provide a copy of all messages contained in this group chat during the first 30 days of it being established.

I look forward to receiving your response within the next 20 days.

Yours faithfully,

Russell Scott

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
request-1036722-e428b5d8@whatdotheyknow.com