



Isle of Man
Government

Keillys Ellan Vannin

Department of Health and Social Care

Rheynn Slaynt as Kiarail y Theay

Mr Ian Kermode
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Douglas
IM1 2QA

Interim Chief Executive: Stuart Quayle
Freedom of Information Team
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Our ref: 2819789

23 December 2022

Dear Mr Kermode

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2015.

We write further to your request which was received on 7th December 2022 and which states:

"Please can you confirm the following:

- 1. What was the overall total cost of Covid-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE including but not limited to gloves, visors, goggles, aprons, body suits, gowns and masks) bought by the IOM Government (for use on the IOM including by NHS staff, in schools, by local residents etc) in the Year 1st March 2020 to 1st March 2021?*
 - 2. What was the figure for 1st March 2021 to 1st March 2022?*
 - 3. Which companies (whether local IOM or UK/foreign) was the PPE bought from in each of those years (please list and name each individual company and respective type of PPE supplied)?*
 - 4. How much was paid to each named company in each of the above years?*
 - 5. Which IOM government department awarded PPE contracts to the supplying companies?*
 - 6. Were all of the PPE supply contracts subject to a tendering process? If not please confirm which were and which were not.*
 - 7. Were the standard government procurement procedures used and applied in relation to the purchase of Covid PPE during the above mentioned years? If not please identify the period they were not used and what PPE was purchased without being subject to the usual procurement procedures.*
 - 8. Were due diligence procedures carried out on all companies supplying Covid PPE to IOM government?*
- Thank you."*

Whilst our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) does not hold or cannot, after taking reasonable steps to do so, find the specific information to answer your question and we must refuse this request under Section 11 (2) (b) of the Act (practical refusal reason) referencing Section 8 (3), the Act states that:

'a public authority is not required to create or derive information from information that it holds; undertake research into, or analysis of, information that it holds; or undertake substantial compilation or collation of information that it holds'

To disclose the information requested would require the Department to undertake substantial compilation and analytical research regarding the information it holds and would not be a full representation of the information you seek.

To provide Advice and Assistance, while undertaking searches for the information we found that across Government some areas opted to source their own PPE rather than be recharged for it if it was provided by DHSC (as the recharge rate was the same as at cost at acquisition, and at a later date it could be cheaper to source elsewhere).

As the pandemic progressed staff members were redeployed from across Government to work in different areas, for example staff from Treasury, Department for Enterprise and Department of Infrastructure were working with DHSC colleagues on procurement, therefore information is held across Government. There was also contact with the UK regarding the NHS supply chain.

There are financial figures relating to Covid-19 in the Government accounts but this is not restricted to PPE as there were various costs, for example additional staff cover due to illness.

Regarding the companies PPE was bought from, as most countries were trying to source PPE at the same time, in the Isle of Man private companies used their industry contacts to source PPE from abroad and although the local companies were paid by Government for the goods, we are advised that they often did this at cost with no fees charged.

Please quote the reference number 2819789 in any future communications.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your freedom of information request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by completing a complaint form and submitting it electronically or by delivery/post.

An electronic version of our complaint form can be found by going to our website at <https://services.gov.im/freedom-of-information/Review> . If you would like a paper version of our complaint form to be sent to you by post, please contact me and I will be happy to arrange for this. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made as soon as practicable. We will respond as soon as the review has been concluded.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner for a decision on;

1. Whether we have responded to your request for information in accordance with Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2015; or
2. Whether we are justified in refusing to give you the information requested.

In response to an application for review, the Information Commissioner may, at any time, attempt to resolve a matter by negotiation, conciliation, mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution and will have regard to any outcome of this in making any subsequent decision.

More detailed information on your right to a review can be found on the Information Commissioner's website at www.inforights.im.

Should you have any queries concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Further information about freedom of information requests can be found at www.gov.im/foi.

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely


Information Governance & Standards Officer