

Witness Name: Jason Jonathan Evans

Statement No: WITN1210008

Exhibits: WITN1210009-036

Dated: February 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN1210018



Department of Health

request-328903-54ab893b@

GRO-C

27 May 2016

Dear J J Evans

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA): REQUEST FOR INTERNAL REVIEW
DH CASE REF: IR 1029430**

Thank you for your email, dated 30 April in which you requested an Internal Review into the handling of your original request (FOI-1029430).

Chronology

You originally wrote to the Department of Health (the DH) on 17 April to request the following:

"Please could you provide a list of pharmaceutical companies that were given legal indemnity for any reason or product and the date on which that indemnity was given, covering the period of 1975 - 1995."

The DH replied on 29 April as follows:

"Thank you for your request of 17 April 2016 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

[See above for brevity]

I can confirm that the Department does not hold information relevant to your request.

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team

Department of Health
Room G18
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS
Email: freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Internal Review

You subsequently wrote again to the DH on 3 May to request an Internal Review in the following terms:

"Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Department of Health's handling of my FOI request 'Companies given legal indemnity'.

I find it absolutely impossible to believe the department does not hold this information, if the department does not hold this information I think serious questions need to be asked as why this information is not held, however, clearly it is."

The Review

The Department of Health has undertaken a review into the handling of your original request (FOI-1029430).

The DH has undertaken further searches and can now clarify it does not hold any information falling within scope of your specific request and the timeline you requested.

The review is now complete.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make

a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
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Yours sincerely

TONY DOOLE
Senior Casework Manager
Freedom of Information