

21/11/2012

DE00000734767

Dear

Thank you for your follow-up request of 24 October 2012 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

*“1. Please supply copies of all correspondence concerning tobacco control between the Department of Health and any Australian governmental department or organisation with a public health remit across the last 12 months (ending 24th October 2012).*

*2. Please supply copies of all correspondence concerning tobacco control between the Department of Health and any New Zealand governmental department or organisation with a public health remit across the last 12 months (ending 24th October 2012).*

*3. Please supply copies of correspondence between The Department of Health and the Department of health's Consultation Coordinator, for the period 1st April 2012 to 24th October 2012, which relates to the recent standardised (plain) packaging consultation.*

*4. Please supply copies of all correspondence between the Department of Health and any and all third parties (including private individuals, companies, MPs or organisations) in which the Hands Off Our Packs campaign was discussed or queried in the period 15th September 2012 and 24th October 2012 inclusive.*

*5. Please supply copies of all correspondence between the Department of Health and any and all third parties (including private individuals, companies, MPs or organisations) in which the Plain Packs Protect campaign was discussed or queried for the period 15th September 2012 and 24th October 2012 inclusive.”*

I can confirm that the Department holds information relevant to your request.

**1)**

Please see attached the following information:

	Date	Details
(1)	13.03.2012	From Rohan Greenland Director, Government Relations National Heart Foundation of Australia to the Department of Health
(2)	16.04.2012	From Department of Health to many
(3)	16.04.2012	Exchange between the Department of Health and Ageing, Australia and

		the Department of Health
(4)	05.07.2012	From Department of Health to many
(5)	05.07.2012 16.04.2012	Exchange between the Department of Health and Ageing, Australia and the Department of Health
(6)	13.08.2012	From the Department of Health and Ageing, Australia to the Department of Health and others
(7)	15.08.2012	From the Department of Health and Ageing, Australia to the Department of Health and others
(8)	05.10.2012	From the Department of Health and Ageing, Australia to the Department of Health and others
(9)	09.10.2012	From the Department of Health and Ageing, Australia to the Department of Health and others
(10)	11.10.2012 05.10.2012 24.10.2012	Exchange between the Department of Health to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

**2)**

Please see attached the following information:

	Date	Details
(11)	23.07.2012	From the Ministry of Health, New Zealand to the Department of Health and others

**3)**

As explained in our previous reply of 24 October to your earlier request (Ref No.: DE00000728371), the Department does not hold any such information, as the consultations co-ordinator is part of the Department of Health. They are responsible for ensuring that all consultations run by that department are in line with the Consultation Principles provided by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (formerly, the Code of Practice on Consultation).

**4)**

Please see attached the following information:

	Date	Details
(12.0,12.1, 12.2)	17.09.2012	From Hands off Our Packs to the Department of Health
(13.1,13.2,13.2A,13.2B,13.3,13.4)	08.10.2012	From Department of Health to Hands Off Our Packs (with

		attachments)
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**5)**

Please see attached the following information:

	Date	Details
(14)	19.10.2012	From the Department of Health to Fiona Andrews, Director of Smokefree South West
(15)	19.10.2012	From the Department of Health to Simon Clarke, Director of Forest

Please note that some of the information has been removed from the disclosed documents in accordance with Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. This exemption relates to the protection of personal information which would not otherwise be available in the public domain.

The Department holds some information relevant to your request in addition to that set out above. However, we consider that this information is exempt under Section 27 of FOIA which provides that information may be exempt from disclosure if (a) its disclosure would prejudice, or be likely to prejudice, relations between the UK and other States or (b) if it is confidential information provided by another State or international organisation. Section 27 includes the exemption of information that would harm UK interests in relation to international arrangements, or in its dealings with another state or non-UK organisation, across a wide range of issues.

Section 27 provides a qualified exemption and we must consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption is greater than that in providing the information requested. While we accept that there is a general public interest in transparency and that release of this information may inform the public debate, we also take into account the strong public interest in maintaining good international relations and allowing the UK to conduct relationships with the governments and third parties in Australia and New Zealand without fear of provoking a negative reaction.

After careful consideration we have concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information.

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 317  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall,  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Email: [freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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,

Jamie Scott

Freedom of Information Officer  
Department of Health

[freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)