

Thank you for your request of 10 September 2012 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

“Please supply copies of all correspondence between the Department of Health and

- (a) Smokefree South West,
- (b) Action on Smoking and Health (ASH),
- (c) British Heart Foundation,
- (d) Cancer Research UK and
- (e) members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health

The above correspondence should be for the period 16 April to 31 August 2012 (inclusive), including any correspondence in connection with the Plain Packs Protect campaign.”

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

We have assessed the documents that we consider to fall in the scope of your request and we are providing copies of correspondence between the Department and:

- (a) Smokefree South West,
- (b) Action on Smoking and Health (ASH),
- (c) British Heart Foundation,
- (d) Cancer Research UK and
- (e) Members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health

The attached table details the correspondence within the scope of your request. Due to their large volume, I will send the documents themselves in separate emails following this one.

You will notice that some of the information has been removed in accordance with Section 40 of the FOI Act. The Department considers that this information, particularly the names of third parties and officials in the Department of Health and other Government Departments who are not at Senior Civil Servant rank, is exempt from disclosure under section 40. This exemption relates to the protection of personal information which would not otherwise be available in the public domain.

Please note that some of the information referred to in the attached table is already available in the public domain so where applicable I will, under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act, refer you to the published source.

The information shared here represents a search of only the tobacco programme team's files, as this is the team most likely to hold information relevant to your request.

To search other teams in the Department for any relevant correspondence would likely engage section 12 of the FOI Act. The regulations relating to section 12 of the FOI Act set out that a public authority can refuse to process a request if doing so would exceed the cost limits, which are £600 or 3.5 working days. It would incur disproportionate cost to check with every other policy team in the Department of Health whether they hold the information you have requested as it would involve contacting around 200 different teams within the Department.

You may wish to narrow your request, for example by specifying a particular policy team or directorate. However, the Department cannot guarantee that section 12 or any other exemption will not apply to any further request. As explained above, we have already approached the team most likely to hold relevant correspondence in the Department.

The Department's organogram, which you may find helpful in refining your request, can be found here:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/HowDHworks/Transparency/DH_127549