Government
Legal Department

Operations
102 Petty France
Westminster
London
SW1H 9GL

+44 (0)20 7210 3000
FOI@governmentlegal.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/gld

[redacted]

Ref No: **FOI 25_073**

25 April 2025

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email of **15 April 2025** which contained your request for information. The Government Legal Department ("GLD") have processed your request for information under [the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Request

1. *Any legal advice, briefing notes, internal correspondence, or supporting documentation held by the Government Legal Department (GLD) that address or assess whether the legal threshold set out in Section 45A of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 was met in relation to the making of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020.*

   Specifically, I am seeking information regarding:

- *The scientific or medical evidence available to the GLD or relied upon by the GLD to determine whether COVID-19 constituted an "infection or contamination which presents or could present significant harm to human health," as required by Section 45A;*
- *Any internal legal assessments or opinions related to satisfying the threshold in Section 45A before the Regulations were made;*
- *Any communications or advice given by the GLD to ministers or other government departments on this issue.*

Response

Pursuant to Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, GLD informs you that it does hold the information you have requested.

Work related to the regulations was carried out in Department for Health and Social Care Legal Advisors (DHSC LA) or Department for Transport Legal Advisors (DfT LA) at the relevant time (back in 2020).

Subject to the Section 16 of the Act, GLD has an obligation to provide advice and assistance to applicants. GLD advises you to contact DHSC via dhsc.publicenquiries@dhsc.gov.uk and DfT via an online form available at Accessing information from any part of DfT - GOV.UK

Your Rights

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 correspondence. Please use the contact details provided at the top of this letter in order to request an internal review relating to your original request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ICO.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
Operations, Government Legal Department,
102 Petty France, Westminster
London SW1H 9GL
FOI@governmentlegal.gov.uk