



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

Freedom of Information Team  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0EU

[www.gov.uk/dhsc](http://www.gov.uk/dhsc)

Mr Simon Hanna

By email to: [simon@organise.network](mailto:simon@organise.network)

30 June 2026

Dear Mr Hanna,

**Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1680189**

Thank you for your request dated 12 February to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and we apologise for the long delay in replying.

We will respond to each element of your request in turn.

***1. Meetings with pharmaceutical companies and the United States Government  
Please provide a list of all meetings held by senior ministers or senior DHSC  
officials with:***

- pharmaceutical companies or pharmaceutical trade associations***
- representatives of the United States Government***

***Where the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the pharmaceutical trade deal***

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

Please see the table below for a list of meetings between DHSC ministers/senior officials and pharmaceutical companies or representatives of the US government where the purpose was to discuss the pharmaceuticals partnership with the US.

Please note that the name of a DHSC official has been withheld as personal data of officials below senior civil service level is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOIA, which provides for the protection of personal information that would not otherwise be available in the public domain, as disclosing this information would contravene data protection principles.

| Date of Meeting  | Attendees and organisations represented                                                                                                                   | Subject or purpose of the meeting |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 12 December 2025 | All industry webinar hosted by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry<br><br>Noah Kidron-Style (Deputy Director, Medicines Pricing, DHSC) | UK-US Pharma Deal headlines       |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 22 October 2025 | <p>Tom Keith Roach (UK President, AstraZeneca), Paul Pambakian (Head of UK Corporate Affairs, AstraZeneca)</p> <p>Wes Streeting (DHSC), Departmental official (DHSC), Roz Campion (Office for Life Sciences), Noah Kidron-Style (DHSC)</p> | Meeting between DHSC and AstraZeneca representatives regarding ongoing US-UK negotiations on medicines pricing and tariffs |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## ***2. Briefing materials prepared for ministers ahead of these meetings***

DHSC holds two documents in scope of your request.

Please find attached the briefing for the meeting between DHSC and AstraZeneca representatives which took place on 22 October, and the slides for the all-industry webinar which took place on 12 December.

Please note that some of this information has been redacted under section 40(2) of the FOIA, which provides for the protection of personal information. Section 40 prohibits a public body from disclosing personally identifiable information, as doing so would contravene data protection principles.

We have also redacted some of this information under section 35(1)(a) of the FOIA, which provides protection for the information that relates to the formulation or development of government policy. Section 35 is a qualified exemption and requires consideration of the public interest test.

DHSC recognises the general public interest in making this information available for the sake of greater transparency and openness.

However, DHSC takes the view that the section 35 exemption is intended to ensure that the possibility of public exposure does not deter from full, candid and proper deliberation of policy formulation and development, including the exploration of all options.

Civil servants and subject experts need to be able to engage in the free and frank discussion of all the policy options internally, to expose their merits and demerits and their possible implications as appropriate. Their candour in doing so will be affected by their assessment of whether the content of such discussion will be disclosed. Premature disclosure of information protected under section 35 could prejudice good working relationships and the neutrality of civil servants.

We have also redacted some of this information under section 43(2) of the FOIA, which exempts from the general duty to release information that would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any entity, including the public authority holding the information.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption, and we are therefore required to assess the public interest in withholding this information against that of its release. We recognise a general public interest in making information available for the sake of greater transparency and openness.

However, the information requested is commercially sensitive, and its disclosure may cause third-party providers financial and reputation damage. We have concluded that sharing the information asked for might prejudice commercial interests and could impact on DHSC's current and future relationships. The disclosure of such information may also weaken the procurement and provision of supply services in the future. These factors outweigh any public interest in disclosing the information you have requested.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you can request we undertake an internal review. If doing so, it would be helpful for you to be explicit which areas of the Freedom of Information response you consider dissatisfactory. Complaints to us should be sent to [freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk) or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

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

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already complained to us about our original response and received our response to your complaint and, if applicable, our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within six weeks of your last substantive contact with us.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team  
[freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)

## Annex

**From:** Simon Hanna [simon@organise.network](mailto:simon@organise.network)

**Sent:** 12 February 2026 16:20

**To:** FreedomofInformation [freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk)

**Subject:** Re: Department of Health and Social Care's response to your email regarding your recent FOI request- Our ref: FOI-1669968

Ok I will refine it as follows:

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

To understand your department's role in the recent United Kingdom United States pharmaceutical agreement, which will increase NHS spending on branded and innovative medicines, please provide the following information for the period **one June 2025 to 31 December 2025**:

1. Meetings with pharmaceutical companies and the United States Government  
Please provide a list of all meetings held by **senior ministers** or senior DHSC officials with:

- pharmaceutical companies or pharmaceutical trade associations
- representatives of the United States Government

**Where the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the pharmaceutical trade deal**

For each meeting, please provide:

- the date
- the attendees and organisations represented
- the subject or purpose of the meeting

(I am not requesting minutes, emails or detailed documents at this stage, only the above summary information.)

2. Briefing materials prepared for ministers ahead of these meetings

Please provide any briefing notes, agendas or summary documents that were prepared for ministers or senior officials in advance of the meetings listed above. I am happy to receive the information electronically. If any element of this request exceeds cost limits, please advise how the scope can be refined.

thank you