



Mr Simon Hanna

By email to: simon@organise.network

18 March 2026

Dear Mr Hanna,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1683043

Thank you for your request dated 25 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).

DHSC holds some information relevant to your request. However, most of the information you have requested is subject to ongoing policy development and therefore is exempt under section 35(1)(a).

On 26 November 2025, the Autumn Budget confirmed that new Neighbourhood Health facilities would be built through a combination of public investment and a new model of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). 250 Neighbourhood Health Centres (NHCs) will be delivered through the NHS Neighbourhood Rebuild Programme. This will involve the repurposing of underused estate and constructing new facilities, using a mix of public investment and a new model of PPPs. Of the 250 centres, 50 will repurpose existing estate and 70 will be new builds. 80% of the new builds will be PPPs, with a further 20% coming from public sector investment.

The new PPP model is being developed and is being led by the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA) and supported by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). As the policy is still in active development, DHSC does not currently hold information on who will deliver the new PPP NHCs or the specific details of the costs of these future agreements.

DHSC recognises the general public interest in making the information held, 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.

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 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

Annex

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the capital funding of the NHS neighbourhood health centre programme.

To keep this request within the cost limit, it relates only to the most recent estimates held by the Department and does not require the creation of new analysis.

Please provide:

The most recent internal estimate of the total capital cost of delivering the planned NHS neighbourhood health centres.

The most recent internal estimate of the expected breakdown of that capital cost by funding source, including:

public capital, and

private capital or third-party investment (if such a breakdown is held).

The most recent estimate of the number of neighbourhood health centres expected to be delivered using private finance or third-party investment, if such an estimate is held.

If this information is contained within a single document (for example a slide deck, briefing, or business case summary), I am happy to receive extracts of the relevant pages only.

If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit, please process the remainder and advise me how the request could be refined.

I would prefer to receive the information in electronic format.

Thank you

Simon
The Organise Network