

Email correspondence:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2022 15:56
To: Grieve DA (Derek) <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi all,

Sorry to bother you again, I was just looking for some help regarding the below FOI request please? I have included the introduction text to the request as it provides some context.

FOI request:

'During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

The United States Food & Drug Administration confirmed in December 2020, when granting emergency use authorisation for the Pfizer vaccine that there was no data available on whether the vaccine prevented people to people transmission.

With the above in mind, I would like the Scottish government to confirm:

1. What evidence was provided to the Scottish Government in relation to any change of evidence provided to the United States Food & Drug Administration in 2020 and the testimony provided to the European Union in 2022?

2. Who within Pfizer, or other Covid vaccine providers provided confirmation of the vaccines preventing transmission?

2.1 I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians.) that confirms vaccines administered by the Scottish Government prevented transmission of Covid between people?

2.2 What testing of the vaccines was carried out by the Scottish Government and what were the results?

3. Where no evidence exists of the vaccines preventing transmission from one person to another or between groups, who was responsible for advising the public to be vaccinated to prevent transmission?

3.1 *Who ultimately made the decision to use this messaging and what scientific basis was this made on?*

3.2 *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission.*

The Scottish Government introduced a " Covid Passport " that required people to prove that they had been vaccinated, so that they could enter many public places, such as public houses, restaurants & sporting venues.

4. *Based on the above, who provided the scientific advice and evidence to this course of action?*

4.1 *Who made the ultimate decision to proceed with this course of action?*

4.2 *What discussions took place between the Scottish Government, the hospitality industry and sporting bodies regarding the introduction of the Covid passport?*

4.2.1 *Where no evidence exists for transmission prevention by the Covid vaccines, were the hospitality industry and sporting bodies made aware of this prior to the Covid passports being introduced?*

4.2.2 *If there is no evidence to confirm that the Covid vaccines prevented transmission, did the Scottish Government take legal advice on the possibility of future legal action by businesses that were negatively affected by the introduction of the passports? A Yes or No answer will suffice.*

4.3 *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) concerning points 4, 4.2 & 4.2.1*

I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors.'

I appreciate this is a large request and will require some time put into it and I am happy to chat it through. If you are able to provide me with contributions to this request, if you can include any links to information/documents provided, that would be very helpful.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague or department that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Tuesday 12th October 2022**, that would be appreciated. I understand this is a large request so I am aware that not every question may be covered by then.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 October 2022 18:34
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Grieve DA (Derek) <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

I'll wait and see what the SMO and DCMO come back with from your first request, and take a look at the below with my team. I wasn't here for the initial vaccine roll out, so will speak to those who were for some guidance.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Covid Policy and Liaison | Vaccines Division | Directorate for Population Health
Scottish Government
e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
t: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 October 2022 16:56
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

The lines on vaccine transmission are almost ready. Have your team looked at the Covid Passport and certification section?

I've linked in with the policy team who have been here from the start and the policy lines from Oct / Nov 2020 was that there wasn't evidence that they prevented transmission, that data on transmission wasn't yet available. Data did start to emerge to say that it had some impact on transmission, but it was limited. Did you find much in the way of discussion around the messaging at your end?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Team Leader

Covid Policy and Liaison | Vaccines Division | Directorate for Population Health
Scottish Government

e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

t: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 October 2022 17:04

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Grieve DA (Derek) <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see lines below around transmission. SMO has checked them. We've also found some correspondence from earlier in the programme about it. The policy team's position and advice was consistent in that there was initially no data and then limited evidence of impact on transmission. If you would like me to forward you any emails or links we have found, let me know.

Questions around the Covid passport are probably best answered by the Certification Team & Covid Ready Society. We also think that it would be worth reaching out to CMOs office, as the team recall some discussion with his office around the messaging of this.

The Evidence Paper on Transmission Risk: **3. Transmission in a vaccinated society - Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine certification: evidence paper - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)** is a useful one. Certain points pop out:

- Vaccines help prevent transmission of the virus as vaccinated people are less likely to become infected and ill than unvaccinated people (and only infected people can transmit the virus).
- Data from Scotland in 2021 revealed that household contacts of vaccinated healthcare workers are at reduced risk of becoming a case, at a time when the Alpha variant was dominant[45]
- The consensus view of The Vaccine Effectiveness Expert Panel (VEEP) was considered at SAGE 95 on 9 September 2021[43]. VEEP stated that "for the

Alpha variant, there is ~40% reduction in onward transmission from vaccinated but infected people after one dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, and ~45% for the Pfizer vaccine"[44].

- Data from Israel also indicated that the vaccine helped prevent transmission in breakthrough cases at a time when the Alpha variant was circulating[46] [47].
- Given the above expert advice and evidence, vaccination was recommended to reduce transmission. Even a small effect on preventing transmission can have major additional benefits, especially in health care settings, where staff could expose multiple vulnerable patients.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Suggested lines:

General:

- The Scottish Government's COVID-19 Vaccination Programme continues to be guided by expert advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
- SG does not look at the clinical data itself, however we are guided by the UK regulatory body (MHRA) who are responsible for the approval of clinical trials in the UK and of licences for using new medicinal products.
- The MHRA only grants regulatory approval to COVID-19 vaccines following rigorous reviews of the safety, quality and effectiveness of such vaccines.
- The JCVI continue to review emerging evidence about the virus, vaccine effectiveness and waning protection and uses this to formulate advice on who should receive vaccination and when in order to maximise protection.
- JCVI statements and meeting minutes relating to COVID-19 can be found here: [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/jcvi)
- Further information on the MHRA can be found here: [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/medicines)
- The emergence and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented and the response to the virus was on a scale and at a speed not previously seen in pharmaceutical development. Any coronavirus vaccine that was approved had been through all the clinical trials and safety checks that all other licensed medicines go through.
- The main objective of the COVID-19 immunisation programme is to protect those who are at highest risk from serious illness or death.
- The primary goal of vaccine development was to prevent as many deaths as possible. The vaccines that emerged were incredibly successful in these terms and many lives have been saved.

Pfizer

- The main purpose and success of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines has always been to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalisation and death. They do this by helping the body's immune system to make antibodies (substances that fight

off infection), then if you come into contact with Covid, the antibodies recognise it and help protect you. The vaccines help to build up your immunity to COVID-19 viruses that may be circulating so your body can fight them off more easily if they affect you.

- Vaccine literature from SG and PHS state that vaccines are the best way to help protect you from COVID-19;
 - Vaccines can reduce your risk of needing hospital treatment or dying from COVID-19.
 - Vaccines boost your immunity.
 - Vaccine-induced immunity can wane over time, so it is important to have additional vaccines when you are offered them.
- Although there was no initial clinical data on the Pfizer vaccine's ability to prevent transmission of the virus, studies were carried out after the vaccine was in use amongst the public in the UK and beyond. These studies, albeit limited, suggest that vaccination can lead to a reduction in transmission (see [Green Book Chapter](#) for details).
- Even a small effect on preventing transmission can have major additional benefits, especially in health care settings, where staff could expose multiple vulnerable patients.

[REDACTED]

Team Leader

Covid Policy and Liaison | Vaccines Division | Directorate for Population Health
Scottish Government

e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

t: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 October 2022 11:53

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Grieve DA (Derek) <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you on this and thank you for your help and information below, really appreciate it.

I will review the information and start to collate into a response. With regards to the emails and links you mentioned, if you wouldn't mind sending them over that would be very helpful.

Also just to highlight the final point in the request : ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors.'***

Taken this into consideration, could I ask please that you also provide any correspondence (emails, teams messages etc.) that you have in relation to this request. I have a copy of the initial correspondence sent to you and other colleagues, it would just be any correspondence which I haven't been involved in so far if that makes sense.

Any questions or issues please let me know.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 October 2022 12:16
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Grieve DA (Derek) <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi all

Just to note that several of the historic communications I've sent on in relation to this reference legal and other advice to Ministers that may require exemption/redaction along with very long email trails with various addresses which will also require redaction, if they were used in the preparation of these lines. We will also want to check in with certification policy on this point as several of the emails originated with them not vaccine policy,

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Head of Policy and Liaison
Vaccines Operational Policy Division
Population Health Directorate
Scottish Government
Email: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2022 12:37
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Grieve DA (Derek) <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Thanks [REDACTED],

Yea of course, I understand that I will need to do a full review of any correspondence supplied and apply any exemptions if necessary.

Given this, when providing any emails/correspondence/teams messages etc. if there is information which you feel require redactions, for example, due to legal advice/advise given to ministers etc. could you please advise what information has to be redacted and what exemption applies to that information?

I will redact the information regarding various email addresses/personal information from the email chains that fall under exemption, however, I will need some help and advice regarding any information within the texts which should be exempt, otherwise I will assume it is ok to release. I will of course send draft response before issuing for clearance though.

Happy to chat through if any issues.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2022 12:22
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hey [REDACTED],

Hope you are well, I was just wondering if you could possibly help me or point me in the right direction in relation to the FOI request below please? I have included the introduction to the request as it provides some context. To note, I am looking for help regarding points 4. onwards.

FOI request:

'During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

The United States Food & Drug Administration confirmed in December 2020, when granting emergency use authorisation for the Pfizer vaccine that there was no data available on whether the vaccine prevented people to people transmission.

With the above in mind, I would like the Scottish government to confirm:

1. What evidence was provided to the Scottish Government in relation to any change of evidence provided to the United States Food & Drug Administration in 2020 and the testimony provided to the European Union in 2022?

2. Who within Pfizer, or other Covid vaccine providers provided confirmation of the vaccines preventing transmission?

2.1 I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians.) that confirms vaccines administered by the Scottish Government prevented transmission of Covid between people?

2.2 What testing of the vaccines was carried out by the Scottish Government and what were the results?

3. Where no evidence exists of the vaccines preventing transmission from one person to another or between groups, who was responsible for advising the public to be vaccinated to prevent transmission?

3.1 Who ultimately made the decision to use this messaging and what scientific basis was this made on?

3.2 I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission.

The Scottish Government introduced a " Covid Passport " that required people to prove that they had been vaccinated, so that they could enter many public places, such as public houses, restaurants & sporting venues.

4. Based on the above, who provided the scientific advice and evidence to this course of action?

4.1 Who made the ultimate decision to proceed with this course of action?

4.2 What discussions took place between the Scottish Government, the hospitality industry and sporting bodies regarding the introduction of the Covid passport?

4.2.1 Where no evidence exists for transmission prevention by the Covid vaccines, were the hospitality industry and sporting bodies made aware of this prior to the Covid passports being introduced?

4.2.2 *If there is no evidence to confirm that the Covid vaccines prevented transmission, did the Scottish Government take legal advice on the possibility of future legal action by businesses that were negatively affected by the introduction of the passports? A Yes or No answer will suffice.*

4.3 *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) concerning points 4, 4.2 & 4.2.1*

I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors.'

I appreciate this is a large request and will require some time put into it and I am happy to chat it through. If you are able to provide me with contributions to this request, if you can include any links to information/documents provided, that would be very helpful.

Also just to highlight the last section of this request: ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors'***. Taken this into consideration, if you do send any correspondence (emails, team messages etc.) which relate to this request, can you please forward on to me and they will need to be included in the response.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Tuesday 1st November 2022**, that would be appreciated. I understand this is a large request so I am aware that not every question may be covered by then.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government**

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 October 2022 12:22

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Automatic reply: *Action required FOI 325008*

Thank you for your email. I am currently out of office and my emails are not being monitored.

For queries related to the Adaptations Expert Advisory Group please forward your email to [REDACTED]@gov.scot.

If your email is urgent please contact my line manager [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]@gov.scot.

Otherwise, I will respond to your email upon my return.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Covid Ready Society Division

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 October 2022 12:37
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Grieve DA (Derek) <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Thanks [REDACTED].

Hi [REDACTED],

below is redaction guidance, normally FOI Action Officers will save emails as a word file then insert brackets and the word redacted to take away text like staff names, email addresses, phone numbers and anything non-relevant like personal chat. Like this>> [REDACTED]
(Use of MS Word 'find and replace' can speed up this process for names and email addresses).

Once the redactions are complete then save the redacted word version as a PDF, if you're stuck the FOI unit can advise further. [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2022 12:39

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Grieve DA (Derek) <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Thanks [REDACTED], appreciate the information.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 October 2022 12:45
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

NP, Gives a shout if you're stuck, I've done loads of these. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2022 13:00
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Thanks [REDACTED], yea will probably take you up on that

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2022 15:47
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Advice request FOI 325008

Hi,

I was just wondering if you could possibly help me or point me in the right direction in relation to the FOI request below please? I have included the introduction to the request as it provides some context. To note, I am looking for advice regarding points **4.2.2**

'During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

The United States Food & Drug Administration confirmed in December 2020, when granting emergency use authorisation for the Pfizer vaccine that there was no data available on whether the vaccine prevented people to people transmission.

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3.2 I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission.

The Scottish Government introduced a " Covid Passport " that required people to prove that they had been vaccinated, so that they could enter many public places, such as public houses, restaurants & sporting venues.

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4.2.1 *Where no evidence exists for transmission prevention by the Covid vaccines, were the hospitality industry and sporting bodies made aware of this prior to the Covid passports being introduced?*

4.2.2 *If there is no evidence to confirm that the Covid vaccines prevented transmission, did the Scottish Government take legal advice on the possibility of future legal action by businesses that were negatively affected by the introduction of the passports? A Yes or No answer will suffice.*

4.3 *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) concerning points 4, 4.2 & 4.2.1*

I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors.'

Can I ask please do you have any information on record in answer to question 4.2.2? I am aware that if any information falls under 'legal advice' then there may be some FOISA exemptions applied to such information, if that is the case could you please supply me with any information but advise what, if any, information should be exempt under FOISA legislation.

If you are able to provide me with contributions to this request, if you can include any links to information/documents provided, that would be very helpful.

Also just to highlight the last section of this request: ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors'***. Taken this into consideration, if you do send any correspondence (emails, team messages etc.) which relate to this request, can you please forward on to me as they will need to be included in the response.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Tuesday 1st November 2022**, that would be appreciated. If this date doesn't suit please let me know.

Many thanks and happy Friday.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society**

**Health Protection Division
Scottish Government**

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 November 2022 11:26
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED]

Confirming we have discussed FOI 325008 and I have provided a steer on the relevant policy leads to get in touch with and documents in scope.

If there's anything else you need my help with don't hesitate to reach out.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
COVID Ready Society Division
Directorate for Population Health
Scottish Government
Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2022 11:35
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Perfect [REDACTED], thank you for the chat and the steer on this, much appreciated.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2022 16:39
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED]/[REDACTED],

Hope you both are well and apologies for contacting you so late on a Friday. I am just looking for some help regarding the below FOI request and I have been pointed in your direction and advised that you may be able to help me regarding a few of the

points please. I have included the introduction to the request as it provides some context. To note, I would be looking for your help with point **4.2**.

FOI request:

'During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

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3.2 I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission.

The Scottish Government introduced a " Covid Passport " that required people to prove that they had been vaccinated, so that they could enter many public places, such as public houses, restaurants & sporting venues.

4. Based on the above, who provided the scientific advice and evidence to this course of action?

4.1 Who made the ultimate decision to proceed with this course of action?

4.2 What discussions took place between the Scottish Government, the hospitality industry and sporting bodies regarding the introduction of the Covid passport?

4.2.1 Where no evidence exists for transmission prevention by the Covid vaccines, were the hospitality industry and sporting bodies made aware of this prior to the Covid passports being introduced?

4.2.2 If there is no evidence to confirm that the Covid vaccines prevented transmission, did the Scottish Government take legal advice on the possibility of future legal action by businesses that were negatively affected by the introduction of the passports? A Yes or No answer will suffice.

4.3 I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) concerning points 4, 4.2 & 4.2.1

I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors.'

If you are able to provide me with contributions to this request, if you can include any links to information/documents provided, that would be very helpful.

Also just to highlight the last section of this request: ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors'***. Taken this into consideration, if you do send any further correspondence (emails, team messages etc.) which relate to this request, can you please forward on to me and they will need to be included in the response.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Tuesday 8th November 2022**, that would be appreciated. If this does not suit though please let me know.

Happy to chat through and discuss next week too.

Many thanks and hope you have a lovely weekend.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 November 2022 16:44
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

There were a number of calls both with sports bodies alone and as part of wider engagement with various sectors led by [REDACTED] team. It's not a very specific question in terms of asking for dates of meetings or calls etc. What level of detail are you looking for the response?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Strategic Football Lead
Active Scotland Division
Scottish Government
[REDACTED]
EH6 6QQ
Tel: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2022 16:51
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Agree with you [REDACTED] regarding the question, would it be ok to arrange a call with you at some point next week to discuss this maybe?

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 November 2022 16:55
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Yes, let me have a look on Monday to see what I can find in terms of dates and emails etc and we can go from there.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 November 2022 17:00

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Perfect appreciate the help, I am back in the office on Tuesday so will give you a message to see when suits for a call.

Many thanks again and have a nice weekend!

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 November 2022 12:00

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Advice request FOI 325008

Hi,

I am forwarding the below request for advice to this mailbox as I haven't received any response back from the two inboxes I have tried previously.

Any advice on the below request would be appreciated.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Policy Correspondence Officer

COVID Ready Society

Health Protection Division

Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 October 2022 15:47

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Advice request FOI 325008

Hi,

I was just wondering if you could possibly help me or point me in the right direction in relation to the FOI request below please? I have included the introduction to the request as it provides some context. To note, I am looking for advice regarding points **4.2.2**

‘During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

The United States Food & Drug Administration confirmed in December 2020, when granting emergency use authorisation for the Pfizer vaccine that there was no data available on whether the vaccine prevented people to people transmission.

With the above in mind, I would like the Scottish government to confirm:

1. *What evidence was provided to the Scottish Government in relation to any change of evidence provided to the United States Food & Drug Administration in 2020 and the testimony provided to the European Union in 2022?*

2. *Who within Pfizer, or other Covid vaccine providers provided confirmation of the vaccines preventing transmission?*

2.1 *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians.) that confirms vaccines administered by the Scottish Government prevented transmission of Covid between people?*

2.2 *What testing of the vaccines was carried out by the Scottish Government and what were the results?*

3. *Where no evidence exists of the vaccines preventing transmission from one person to another or between groups, who was responsible for advising the public to be vaccinated to prevent transmission?*

3.1 *Who ultimately made the decision to use this messaging and what scientific basis was this made on?*

3.2 *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission.*

The Scottish Government introduced a " Covid Passport " that required people to prove that they had been vaccinated, so that they could enter many public places, such as public houses, restaurants & sporting venues.

4. Based on the above, who provided the scientific advice and evidence to this course of action?

4.1 Who made the ultimate decision to proceed with this course of action?

4.2 What discussions took place between the Scottish Government, the hospitality industry and sporting bodies regarding the introduction of the Covid passport?

4.2.1 Where no evidence exists for transmission prevention by the Covid vaccines, were the hospitality industry and sporting bodies made aware of this prior to the Covid passports being introduced?

4.2.2 If there is no evidence to confirm that the Covid vaccines prevented transmission, did the Scottish Government take legal advice on the possibility of future legal action by businesses that were negatively affected by the introduction of the passports? A Yes or No answer will suffice.

4.3 I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) concerning points 4, 4.2 & 4.2.1

I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors.'

Can I ask please do you have any information on record in answer to question 4.2.2? I am aware that if any information falls under 'legal advice' then there may be some FOISA exemptions applied to such information, if that is the case could you please supply me with any information but advise what, if any, information should be exempt under FOISA legislation.

If you are able to provide me with contributions to this request, if you can include any links to information/documents provided, that would be very helpful.

Also just to highlight the last section of this request: ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors'***. Taken this into consideration, if you do send any correspondence (emails, team messages etc.) which relate to this request, can you please forward on to me as they will need to be included in the response.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Tuesday 1st November 2022**, that would be appreciated. If this date doesn't suit please let me know.

Many thanks and happy Friday.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 November 2022 14:43
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

General answer would be:

- The Scottish Government worked directly with football clubs and the governing bodies (SFA and SPFL), and with Scottish Rugby, during the development of the certification scheme and during its implementation to ensure it was workable and to enable issues and concerns to be addressed.

Links to some docs attached which demonstrate the engagement.

[REDACTED]
Strategic Football Lead
Active Scotland Division
Scottish Government
[REDACTED]
EH6 6QQ
Tel: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 November 2022 17:38
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Advice request FOI 325008

Hi [REDACTED]
Just to let you know that your email has been forwarded to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as legal advice on vaccination was dealt with by [REDACTED] team

and then by a rota team within [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] will come back to you on this.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Solicitor | Head of Branch 2 : Public Health | Food, Health and Social Care Division | Scottish Government Legal Directorate | [REDACTED] EH6 6QQ | Tel: 0131 244 5423 | [REDACTED]

Please note Wednesday is my non-working day

This correspondence is from the Scottish Government Legal Directorate. To the extent that it may contain legal advice, it is legally privileged and therefore may be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 November 2022 15:07

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you are well, I was just wondering if you have been able to consider the below request and provide an answer in relation to the hospitality sector please?

Please see [REDACTED] response below for a steer if that helps.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 November 2022 15:23

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] works in my team.

I think you maybe want somebody like [REDACTED] I think on hospitality.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Active Scotland | Scottish Government | [REDACTED]
| EH6 6QQ

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 November 2022 15:49
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Apologies [REDACTED], appreciate the help.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 November 2022 15:57
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Sorry [REDACTED] I was just wondering if you had a contact for [REDACTED] or knew if they are still working in SG. I can't seem to locate their details on Outlook or the staff directory?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 November 2022 13:56
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Could you please provide an update on this case and any requested information?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 November 2022 13:59
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find attached a breakdown of documents found that are related to the case. Search was for “transmission” within our workgroup folder from 01/10/2020 – 11/11/2022 when I ran the search.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Team Leader

Covid Policy and Liaison | Vaccines Division | Directorate for Population Health

Scottish Government

e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

t: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 November 2022 14:19
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you are well, I was just looking for some help please with the below FOI request and have been advised you might be able to help as looking for some information from Comms?

I have included the introductory information to give a background of the request, but to note, I would only be looking for your help in relation to Q6, highlighted.

FOI request:

‘During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

The United States Food & Drug Administration confirmed in December 2020, when granting emergency use authorisation for the Pfizer vaccine that there was no data available on whether the vaccine prevented people to people transmission.

With the above in mind, I would like the Scottish government to confirm:

1. *What evidence was provided to the Scottish Government in relation to any change of evidence provided to the United States Food & Drug Administration in 2020 and the testimony provided to the European Union in 2022?*
2. *Who within Pfizer, or other Covid vaccine providers provided confirmation of the vaccines preventing transmission?*
3. *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians.) that confirms vaccines administered by the Scottish Government prevented transmission of Covid between people?*
4. *What testing of the vaccines was carried out by the Scottish Government and what were the results?*
5. *Where no evidence exists of the vaccines preventing transmission from one person to another or between groups, who was responsible for advising the public to be vaccinated to prevent transmission?*
6. ***Who ultimately made the decision to use this messaging and what scientific basis was this made on?***
7. *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission...'*

What I was looking to find out, if we can, is when the wording changed from saying that there was no evidence of vaccines reducing transmission of Covid, to going to there is limited evidence to suggest that vaccines affect transmission of Covid? Is it possible to request Comms lines from January 2021 till October 2022 as feel it is in that time-frame somewhere that the change in wording happened?

Just to highlight they have also requested: ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors'***. Taken this into consideration, if you do send any further correspondence (emails, team messages etc.) which relate to this request, can you please forward on to me and they will need to be included in the response.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this and taking into consideration the long weekend, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Tuesday 29th November 2022**, that would be appreciated. If this does not suit though please let me know.

Happy to chat through too.
Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government**

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 November 2022 11:13
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Advice request FOI 325008
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED],

I am only responding to your email of 28 October now because [REDACTED] have only just been able to gain access to the [REDACTED] Mailbox you sent your email to and we do not have access to the second email address (the [REDACTED] mailbox).

Can you let me know if you also sent your enquiry to [REDACTED] (the [REDACTED] team) who deal with all Covid related FOI requests in the first instance?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Solicitor | Employment and Covid-19 Inquiries Division | Scottish Government Legal Directorate |

I am working remotely. Please contact me by email or Teams in the first instance. I work part time and will be offline on Wednesday afternoons and Fridays.

This correspondence is from the Scottish Government Legal Directorate. It contains legal advice and is legally privileged. It may, therefore, be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 November 2022 11:17
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Advice request FOI 325008

Hi [REDACTED],

I have now had a response regarding this request so no further action is required. Thanks for following up.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 November 2022 16:10

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi all,

Hope you are well. I am just looking for some help regarding the below FOI request and I have been pointed in your direction and advised that you may be able to help me regarding a few of the points please?

I have included the introduction to the request as it provides some context. To note, I would be looking for your help with point **4.2** regarding the hospitality sector.

FOI request:

'During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

The United States Food & Drug Administration confirmed in December 2020, when granting emergency use authorisation for the Pfizer vaccine that there was no data available on whether the vaccine prevented people to people transmission.

With the above in mind, I would like the Scottish government to confirm:

1. What evidence was provided to the Scottish Government in relation to any change of evidence provided to the United States Food & Drug Administration in 2020 and the testimony provided to the European Union in 2022?

2. Who within Pfizer, or other Covid vaccine providers provided confirmation of the vaccines preventing transmission?

2.1 I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians.) that confirms vaccines administered by the Scottish Government prevented transmission of Covid between people?

2.2 *What testing of the vaccines was carried out by the Scottish Government and what were the results?*

3. *Where no evidence exists of the vaccines preventing transmission from one person to another or between groups, who was responsible for advising the public to be vaccinated to prevent transmission?*

3.1 *Who ultimately made the decision to use this messaging and what scientific basis was this made on?*

3.2 *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission.*

The Scottish Government introduced a " Covid Passport " that required people to prove that they had been vaccinated, so that they could enter many public places, such as public houses, restaurants & sporting venues.

4. *Based on the above, who provided the scientific advice and evidence to this course of action?*

4.1 *Who made the ultimate decision to proceed with this course of action?*

4.2 *What discussions took place between the Scottish Government, the hospitality industry and sporting bodies regarding the introduction of the Covid passport?*

4.2.1 *Where no evidence exists for transmission prevention by the Covid vaccines, were the hospitality industry and sporting bodies made aware of this prior to the Covid passports being introduced?*

4.2.2 *If there is no evidence to confirm that the Covid vaccines prevented transmission, did the Scottish Government take legal advice on the possibility of future legal action by businesses that were negatively affected by the introduction of the passports? A Yes or No answer will suffice.*

4.3 *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) concerning points 4, 4.2 & 4.2.1*

I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors.'

If you are able to provide me with contributions to this request, if you can include any links to information/documents provided, that would be very helpful.

Also just to highlight the last section of this request: ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors'***. Taken this into consideration, if you do send any further correspondence (emails, team messages etc.) which relate to this request, can you please forward on to me and they will need to be included in the response.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Thursday 1st December 2022**, that would be appreciated. If this does not suit though please let me know.

Happy to chat through too.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
**Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government**

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 30 November 2022 13:57
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Our answer would be:

- The Scottish Government has worked closely with sectoral organisations like the Scottish Tourism Alliance, UK Hospitality and Scottish Hospitality Group on the impact of restrictions, including the introduction of the Covid passport.

If you require minutes from those roundtable meetings, colleagues from Safer Workplaces who lead the engagements will be able to provide them.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Tourism Policy Adviser
Tourism and Hospitality Division
Directorate for Economic Development

Scottish Government

[REDACTED]

EH6 6QQ

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 30 November 2022 14:20
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

I think [REDACTED] used to be in that team, [REDACTED] as well. They will know where the minutes were saved I imagine.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Tourism Policy Adviser

Tourism and Hospitality Division
Directorate for Economic Development

Scottish Government

[REDACTED]

EH6 6QQ



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 30 November 2022 14:05
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Many thanks [REDACTED], appreciate the help and response below.

Do you possibly have any contacts in Safer Workplaces that would be best for me to get in touch with to ask for those minutes please?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 December 2022 15:51
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Apologies this is coming to you a little later than planned, we were seeking input from the wider comms team and clearance from our head of marketing. Response from us as follows:

Vaccine public communication activity focussed on communicating the message 'getting the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from serious illness due to COVID-19'. Various permutations of this message were conveyed on different channels throughout the pandemic and to a number of different audiences' In one public engagement campaign, 'Riskometer', which was designed to encourage compliance with COVID-19 protective measures while positive case numbers were rising, the line 'getting two doses of the vaccine, protects you and helps you stop spreading the virus'. This campaign ran from 9 August – 5 September 2021. The script for the 'Riskometer' campaign was reviewed and approved by clinicians and Ministers within the Scottish Government.

Let us know if you need anything further.

Best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Senior Marketing Manager - Health | Marketing, Insight, Brand Scotland & Internal Communications**
Scottish Government | [REDACTED] EH1 3DG

*Please note my working hours on Wednesday are 09.00 – 12:30.

*I work flexibly. If you have received this email outwith your usual working hours please only respond at a time that is suitable for you.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 December 2022 12:34
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you are well. I have been advised by [REDACTED] that my request below has been forwarded on to you for response, I was just looking for an update if possible please as haven't heard anything back at all?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 November 2022 14:19
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you are well, I was just looking for some help please with the below FOI request and have been advised you might be able to help as looking for some information from Comms?

I have included the introductory information to give a background of the request, but to note, I would only be looking for your help in relation to Q6, highlighted.

FOI request:

'During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

The United States Food & Drug Administration confirmed in December 2020, when granting emergency use authorisation for the Pfizer vaccine that there was no data available on whether the vaccine prevented people to people transmission.

With the above in mind, I would like the Scottish government to confirm:

- 1. What evidence was provided to the Scottish Government in relation to any change of evidence provided to the United States Food & Drug Administration in 2020 and the testimony provided to the European Union in 2022?*
- 2. Who within Pfizer, or other Covid vaccine providers provided confirmation of the vaccines preventing transmission?*
- 3. I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians.) that confirms vaccines administered by the Scottish Government prevented transmission of Covid between people?*

4. *What testing of the vaccines was carried out by the Scottish Government and what were the results?*
5. *Where no evidence exists of the vaccines preventing transmission from one person to another or between groups, who was responsible for advising the public to be vaccinated to prevent transmission?*
6. ***Who ultimately made the decision to use this messaging and what scientific basis was this made on?***
7. *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission...'*

What I was looking to find out, if we can, is when the wording changed from saying that there was no evidence of vaccines reducing transmission of Covid, to going to there is limited evidence to suggest that vaccines affect transmission of Covid? Is it possible to request Comms lines from January 2021 till October 2022 as feel it is in that time-frame somewhere that the change in wording happened?

Just to highlight they have also requested: ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors'***. Taken this into consideration, if you do send any further correspondence (emails, team messages etc.) which relate to this request, can you please forward on to me and they will need to be included in the response.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this and taking into consideration the long weekend, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Tuesday 29th November 2022**, that would be appreciated. If this does not suit though please let me know.

Happy to chat through too.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government**

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 December 2022 16:18
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi all,

Hope you are well. I am just looking for some final help regarding the referenced FOI please.

At some point over the last few weeks I have contacted you to ask for your assistance with certain aspects of this request. As part of this, the requester has asked us to provide any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers. Given this, could I please ask you to supply me with any correspondence (emails etc.) that you have in relation to this request please?

To note, I do not need my initial email asking for information or any emails that you have already copied me in to, as I have a record of them. I only require correspondence that I have not been included in, if you have approached any other colleagues etc. for any reason please.

If you can send me any emails/correspondence please as soon as possible that would be greatly appreciated.

If you do not have anything to add, please confirm this by email.

Any questions please let me know.

Many thanks and have a lovely weekend.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Policy Correspondence Officer
COVID Ready Society
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 December 2022 09:22
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

I don't think I have any email correspondence on this FOI – we discussed via MS Teams meeting.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COVID Ready Society Division

Directorate for Population Health

Scottish Government

Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@gov.scot



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 12 December 2022 09:57

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see attached for what I retain in my outlook for this FOI request.

I trust that as part of the response all personal details will be redacted?

Best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Senior Marketing Manager - Health | Marketing, Insight, Brand Scotland & Internal Communications**

Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | EH1 3DG

*Please note my working hours on Wednesday are 09.00 – 12:30.

*I work flexibly. If you have received this email outwith your usual working hours please only respond at a time that is suitable for you.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 30 November 2022 15:33

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI for review

As [REDACTED] search indicates, it's hard for us to answer this comprehensively.

The enquirer hasn't referred to any specific comms products and it would be significant work for us to trawl through all social posts to identify whether we ever used that sort of messaging in our organic social media content. I'm therefore not sure it'll be feasible for us to respond specifically about organic social products without clarity from the enquirer on what they mean by "across all media" and "this messaging". Ideally we need to know what posts they are talking about. Without that steer I feel this could be too vague for us to conduct a comprehensive search – we don't hold data about our social posts in that way.

Worth noting that gov.scot hosts transcripts of all the Covid briefings and these are also available in full on YouTube. There's also this interview with Jason from August 2021 which touches on this in a couple of the questions. We would need to consider whether we consider these sorts of products, and any associated sharing of them across any SG channels, as in scope too.

[REDACTED] **Head of Digital & Content, Scottish Government**

[REDACTED] EH1 3DG

[REDACTED]@gov.scot | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 30 November 2022 15:30

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI for review

Hi all

I've done a quick check of the main @scotgov channels for "vaccines" and "spread" plus some variations, and nothing has popped up. We would have posted the marketing assets already listed below though, so I think marketing's reply would cover this, and the phrase that's included saying 'Various permutations of this message were conveyed across the pandemic and to a number of different audiences' would cover us too – perhaps we should add 'on different channels' so it would read:

'Various permutations of this message were conveyed on different channels throughout the pandemic and to a number of different audiences'.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Head of Social Content

[REDACTED]@gov.scot | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 30 November 2022 09:00
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI for review

Copying [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 November 2022 20:30
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FOI for review

[Redacted - Section 30(b)(i)]

[Redacted - Section 30(b)(i)]

[Redacted - Section 30(b)(i)]

FOI request:

I would only be looking for your help in relation to Q6, highlighted.

FOI request:

'During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

The United States Food & Drug Administration confirmed in December 2020, when granting emergency use authorisation for the Pfizer vaccine that there was no data available on whether the vaccine prevented people to people transmission.

With the above in mind, I would like the Scottish government to confirm:

- 1. What evidence was provided to the Scottish Government in relation to any change of evidence provided to the United States Food & Drug Administration in 2020 and the testimony provided to the European Union in 2022?*
- 2. Who within Pfizer, or other Covid vaccine providers provided confirmation of the vaccines preventing transmission?*

3. *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians.) that confirms vaccines administered by the Scottish Government prevented transmission of Covid between people?*
4. *What testing of the vaccines was carried out by the Scottish Government and what were the results?*
5. *Where no evidence exists of the vaccines preventing transmission from one person to another or between groups, who was responsible for advising the public to be vaccinated to prevent transmission?*
6. **Who ultimately made the decision to use this messaging and what scientific basis was this made on?**
7. *I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission...'*

What I was looking to find out, if we can, is when the wording changed from saying that there was no evidence of vaccines reducing transmission of Covid, to going to there is limited evidence to suggest that vaccines affect transmission of Covid? Is it possible to request Comms lines from January 2021 till October 2022 as feel it is in that time-frame somewhere that the change in wording happened?

Just to highlight they have also requested: ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors'***. Taken this into consideration, if you do send any further correspondence (emails, team messages etc.) which relate to this request, can you please forward on to me and they will need to be included in the response.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this and taking into consideration the long weekend, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Tuesday 29th November 2022**, that would be appreciated. If this does not suit though please let me know.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 December 2022 14:54
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI for review

Happy with this thanks.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 December 2022 14:23
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI for review

Hi [REDACTED],

We've now spoken with News and SCH and they have made a minor tweak for their interests, highlighted in yellow below. Are you content with this version?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

Vaccine public communication activity focussed on communicating the message 'getting the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from serious illness due to COVID-19'. Various permutations of this message were conveyed on different channels throughout the pandemic and to a number of different audiences' In one public engagement campaign, 'Riskometer', which was designed to encourage compliance with COVID-19 protective measures while positive case numbers were rising, the line 'getting two doses of the vaccine, protects you and helps you stop spreading the virus'. This campaign ran from 9 August – 5 September 2021. The script for the 'Riskometer' campaign was reviewed and approved by clinicians and Ministers within the Scottish Government.

[REDACTED] | **Senior Marketing Manager - Health | Marketing, Insight, Brand Scotland & Internal Communications**
Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | EH1 3DG

*Please note my working hours on Wednesday are 09.00 – 12:30.

*I work flexibly. If you have received this email outwith your usual working hours please only respond at a time that is suitable for you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 November 2022 17:48
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI for review

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for this and for coming back to us so quickly.

[REDACTED], please could you pick up with news and SCH for vaccine comms?

Best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Senior Marketing Manager - Health | Marketing, Insight, Brand Scotland & Internal Communications**

Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | EH1 3DG

*Please note my working hours on Wednesday are 09.00 – 12:30.

*I work flexibly. If you have received this email outwith your usual working hours please only respond at a time that is suitable for you.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 November 2022 17:35

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI for review

Hi [REDACTED]

I've made some suggested changes. See what you think. I think we also need to check what response news/SCH are going to give – they need to check what they have run that implies the vaccines will stop the virus being transmitted. If we could give an overall comms response pls based on their feedback.

[Redacted - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 November 2022 17:10

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI for review

Apologies, updating copy list to include [REDACTED] as well rather than [REDACTED] twice.

[REDACTED] | Senior Marketing Manager - Health | Marketing, Insight, Brand
Scotland & Internal Communications
Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | EH1 3DG

*Please note my working hours on Wednesday are 09.00 – 12:30.

*I work flexibly. If you have received this email outwith your usual working hours please only respond at a time that is suitable for you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 November 2022 16:38
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FOI for review

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you're well.

We've received an FOI relating to vaccine/s stopping transmission from vaccine policy colleagues and have been doing some digging over the course of yesterday and today – please see below for original request and our proposed response.

We have checked vaccine communications and there has been no messaging linking vaccinations to stopping the spread. However, in the Beyond Level 0 code red campaign that ran in August 2021, we do include a line to that effect. Please could we check whether you are happy with our proposed response?

As part of the Beyond Level 0 campaign for COVID-19 which was designed to encourage compliance to COVID-19 protective measures while positive case numbers were rising, we included the line 'getting two doses of the vaccine, it protects you and helps you stop spreading the virus'. This campaign ran from 9 August – 5 September 2021. The scripts for the Beyond Level 0 campaign were reviewed and approved by Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director from a clinical perspective and were approved by at least one of the following Ministers: First Minister; Deputy First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Health.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

FOI request:

I would only be looking for your help in relation to Q6, highlighted.

FOI request:

'During the Covid pandemic, the Scottish government across all media advised the public to get a Covid vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus.

On 10th October 2022, Pfizer admitted to an EU committee that prior to the launch of their Covid Vaccine, they undertook no testing into the prevention of Covid transmission.

The United States Food & Drug Administration confirmed in December 2020, when granting emergency use authorisation for the Pfizer vaccine that there was no data available on whether the vaccine prevented people to people transmission.

With the above in mind, I would like the Scottish government to confirm:

- 1. What evidence was provided to the Scottish Government in relation to any change of evidence provided to the United States Food & Drug Administration in 2020 and the testimony provided to the European Union in 2022?*
- 2. Who within Pfizer, or other Covid vaccine providers provided confirmation of the vaccines preventing transmission?*
- 3. I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians.) that confirms vaccines administered by the Scottish Government prevented transmission of Covid between people?*
- 4. What testing of the vaccines was carried out by the Scottish Government and what were the results?*
- 5. Where no evidence exists of the vaccines preventing transmission from one person to another or between groups, who was responsible for advising the public to be vaccinated to prevent transmission?*
- 6. Who ultimately made the decision to use this messaging and what scientific basis was this made on?***
- 7. I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission...'*

What I was looking to find out, if we can, is when the wording changed from saying that there was no evidence of vaccines reducing transmission of Covid, to going to there is limited evidence to suggest that vaccines affect transmission of Covid? Is it possible to request Comms lines from January 2021 till October 2022 as feel it is in that time-frame somewhere that the change in wording happened?

Just to highlight they have also requested: ***'I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors'***. Taken this into consideration, if you do send any further correspondence (emails, team messages etc.) which relate to this request, can you please forward on to me and they will need to be included in the response.

Apologies if this is not an area you deal with, if you would be able to forward this on to any colleague that you feel may be able to help me please, that would be greatly appreciated.

As this is an FOI request, the Scottish Government is obligated to reply within strict timelines. Given this and taking into consideration the long weekend, if you are able to provide me with any contributions could you please do so by **Tuesday 29th November 2022**, that would be appreciated. If this does not suit though please let me know.

[REDACTED] | **Senior Marketing Manager - Health | Marketing, Insight, Brand Scotland & Internal Communications**
Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | EH1 3DG

*Please note my working hours on Wednesday are 09.00 – 12:30.

*I work flexibly. If you have received this email outwith your usual working hours please only respond at a time that is suitable for you.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 December 2022 10:50
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

I remember those discussions well! The document you'll be looking for is this one, which should have links to all the engagement:

Record of Stakeholder Engagement details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Industrial Futures Unit
Strategic Commercial Assets Division
Directorate of Economic Development
Scottish Government

Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 December 2022 16:17
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED]/[REDACTED],

I am just looking for some help please regarding the below request. I have been advised that you may be able to provide me with minutes from roundtable meetings regarding Covid certification/passports in hospitality sector?

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 12 December 2022 13:37

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see attached, note I have an outstanding action to search for minister meeting notes which I probably won't get to until Wednesday as I am off tomorrow.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 December 2022 12:58

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Some contacts for [REDACTED] to request minutes from:

- Mr Yousaf's office and Mr McKee's office for a diary check? [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot
- [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@scotent.co.uk](https://www.scotent.co.uk) is the main guy that meets with Manufacturers, but as they are an agency [REDACTED] should probably point the requester to SE's FOI Page [Submit a Freedom of Information enquiry - Scottish Enterprise \(scottish-enterprise.com\)](https://www.scotent.co.uk/submit-a-freedom-of-information-enquiry)
- SG economy – one of these should be able to help Jason:
 - [REDACTED]@gov.scot
 - [REDACTED]@gov.scot
 - [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cheers
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 December 2022 12:33
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: *Action required FOI 325008*

[REDACTED]

Team Leader

Covid Policy and Liaison | Vaccines Division | Directorate for Population Health
Scottish Government

e: [REDACTED] @gov.scot

t: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 December 2022 12:59
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

PO

Please disregard this message - sent in error.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 December 2022 13:50
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

I don't have anything further to add.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Team Leader

Covid Policy and Liaison | Vaccines Division | Directorate for Population Health
Scottish Government

e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

t: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 December 2022 12:08
To: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Good afternoon [REDACTED]/[REDACTED],

I am following up to the below contribution. We are still trying to pull together a response in regards to question 7 (copied below for ease).

- ***I would like copies of any and all paperwork (including minutes of meetings between Scottish Government ministers, advisors and civil servants with the vaccine manufacturers, as well as scientific papers and studies, advice provided by Scottish Government scientists and clinicians) that were directly involved in the decision to use messaging advising the public to have the Covid vaccine to prevent person to person transmission.***

In our view this question is asking for documents (i.e. submissions, briefing etc) relating to any public messaging that advised the public 'to have the COVID vaccine to prevent person to person transmission'. To help in understanding the change to public messages, can you provide us with a timeline of public messages throughout 2021 / 2022 relating to COVID Certification and Vaccination?

I have also copied in [REDACTED] as I was made aware that she worked closely with CRS on comms at this time.

Due to this case being overdue, can a response be provided by COP today to ensure a prompt response can be issued to the correspondent. If this isn't possible, please do let us know.

If you have any questions, please do let me know.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 December 2022 16:05
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

There is no timeline we are able to provide as there is only one instance where the message in question was included in our marketing activity; this was part of the 'Riskometer' campaign I included in our original response. Please find the details on that attached, this is all we'd be able to provide in the timescale but don't think there would be anything further in any case.

Best
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Senior Marketing Manager - Health | Marketing, Insight, Brand
Scotland & Internal Communications
Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | EH1 3DG

*Please note my working hours on Wednesday are 09.00 – 12:30.

*I work flexibly. If you have received this email outwith your usual working hours please only respond at a time that is suitable for you.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 December 2022 13:00
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for providing the attached documents relating to this Freedom of Information request. On reviewing the documents, I have determined that only 1 is applicable and I am proposing to release it - to note on reviewing the document the majority of information is routine discussions. I have highlighted the suggested redactions in yellow. The sections highlighted are being redacted due to being information that relates to personal information (i.e. individual names, contact info etc) under S38 of FOISA.

I am sharing the above for awareness and if you have any concerns about the information being released please do let us know. Due to the case being overdue, can any issues be raised **no later than COP today**. I do appreciate the short deadline but it is key that we prepare this for release as soon as possible to ensure a prompt response to the correspondent.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss, please do let me know.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 December 2022 13:38
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

- *[Redacted - Section 30(b)(i)]*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Strategic Football Lead
Active Scotland Division
Scottish Government
[REDACTED]
EH6 6QQ
Tel: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]

To find out more about Active Scotland, please visit us on Twitter or on our Actify hub

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 December 2022 12:23
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for providing the attached document relating to this Freedom of Information request. On reviewing the document, I have found that a range of them are in scope of the individuals request and therefore, I am proposing to release them – to note on reviewing the document the majority are routine discussions with the hospitality / events industry where they are sharing concerns, lessons learned and/or viewpoints of the certification scheme. I have reviewed each of the documents individually and have suggested a range of redactions which have been highlighted yellow. The sections highlighted are being redacted due to one of the following a) out of scope of the request b) part of free and frank discussion where SG official have informed stakeholders that discussion are in confidence and c) the information relates to personal information (i.e. individual names, contact info etc).

I am sharing the above for awareness and if you have any concerns about the information being released please do let us know. Due to the case being overdue, can any issues be raised **no later than COP today**. I do appreciate the document is lengthy but it is key that we prepare this for release as soon as possible to ensure a prompt response to the correspondent.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss, please do let me know.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 December 2022 13:49
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi,

I've had a look through and made some comments. Basically happy with your draft redactions.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Industrial Futures Unit
Strategic Commercial Assets Division
Directorate of Economic Development
Scottish Government

Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 December 2022 14:07
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your prompt response. I have provided a response to each of the below points.

- *[Redacted - Section 30(b)(i)]*

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss, please do let me know.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Abortion Policy Team / Population Health Hub
Directorate for Population Health
Scottish Government
M : [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Please note Friday is my non-working day



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 December 2022 16:11
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see contributions in line below. These were prepared by [REDACTED].

- [Redacted – Section 30(b)(i)]

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 December 2022 16:15
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: *Action required FOI 325008*

Thanks [REDACTED] – just to add to the below, all the evidence I have on transmission is with you following the last request. For several of these questions Covid Ready Society/ex certification policy colleagues will be the ones who have the information, not us, as we were not responsible for drawing together the recommendation to begin the certification scheme nor for its implementation.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Policy and Liaison
Vaccines Operational Policy Division
Population Health Directorate
Scottish Government
Email: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 09 November 2022 10:14
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; Paterson J (John) <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Advice request FOI 325008

[Redacted],

Your request has been passed to me for response.

Whether legal advice held

In relation to:-

4.2.2 *If there is no evidence to confirm that the Covid vaccines prevented transmission, did the Scottish Government take legal advice on the possibility of future legal action by businesses that were negatively affected by the introduction of the passports? A Yes or No answer will suffice.*

[Redacted – Section 36(1)]

[Redacted – Section 36(1)]

[Redacted – Section 36(1)]

Non-disclosure of legal advice

In relation to:-

“I would also like copies of any and all communications relating to the preparation of answers to the above, including any and all Scottish Government advisors.”

[Redacted – Section 36(1)]

[Redacted – Section 36(1)]

[Redacted – Section 36(1)]

[Redacted – Section 36(1)]

[Redacted – Section 36(1)]

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Solicitor and Branch Head* | Primary Care, Medicines and Treatment Branch|
Scottish Government Legal Directorate | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ |

Currently working from home. Telephone [Redacted]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

***Please note that I share the branch head role with [Redacted]**

This correspondence is from the Scottish Government Legal Directorate. It contains legal advice and is legally privileged. It may, therefore, be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

FOISA Exemptions Applied

The exemptions applied in this instance were:

1. An exemption under Section 30(b)(ii) of FOISA (Free and Frank exchange of views) has been applied to information within scope of this request. This exemption applies as disclosure would (or would likely) inhibit substantially the free and frank exchange of views for the purpose of deliberation.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking into account all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, as stakeholders were informed that comments would be in confidence, there is a greater public interest in allowing stakeholders to share their views with officials in a confidential forum to ensure free and frank discussion where views can be deliberated. Disclosure of this information could result in a breakdown in the relationship with key stakeholders and result in stakeholders sharing limited views in future which may have a wider impact on Scottish Government policy.

2. An exemption under Section 30(b)(i) of FOISA (Free and Frank provision of advice) has been applied to information within scope of this request. This exemption applies as disclosure would (or would likely) inhibit substantially the free and frank provision of advice.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking into account all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing a private space for officials to discuss requests and to provide free and frank advice on the proposed handling of any case to ensure all relevant information is released.

3. An exemption under Section 36(1) of FOISA (confidentiality in legal proceedings) has been applied to information within scope of this request.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking into account all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is some public interest in release as part of open and transparent government, and to inform public debate. However, this is outweighed by the strong public interest in maintaining the right to confidentiality of communications between legal advisers and clients, to ensure that Ministers and

officials are able to receive legal advice in confidence, like any other public or private organisation.

4. An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA (personal information) applies to some of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party, i.e. names and contact details of non-senior staff and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in data protection legislation. This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.