



HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC)
25-27 Middle Gardiner Street
Dublin
D01 A4A3

3rd August 2023

Re: FOI request C313.23

Dear

I refer to your request which was received by this office on 26th June 2023 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by the HSE. Your request sought:

- I would like to request copies of COVID-19 reports passed/sent to the NIAC by HPSC. I am looking for vaccination status of COVID-19 cases and deaths. If there were any other reports, I am not aware of, please send it as well. I am requesting it from the HSE as the National Immunisation Committee is not under FOI Act, therefore the only way to see what was reviewed during the approval of the boosters is via your office. I am looking for data from December 2020 to March 2023.

Decision- Refused

Section 15(1)(a) of the Act states that an FOI request may be refused if:

‘the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken,’

In an effort to locate the records that you are seeking I requested that our staff leads for Covid-19 and our staff member who was responsible for liaising with NIAC furnish me with any records they are in possession of which are relevant to this request. I found that no records of reports sent to NIAC were created and the lead contact with NIAC in HPSC stated that no reports went from HPSC to NIAC relating to vaccination status of Covid-19 cases or deaths. I also requested of NIAC that they search for any reports received by HPSC relevant to this request and their response is contained in the next paragraph. Therefore, during my searches, no records were found that were relevant to this FOI request.

In accordance with the requirements of section 15(1)(a) I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify and locate the records requested [or to identify any records in relation to your request as they do not exist]. I am unable to locate the records concerned and must therefore refuse your request on this basis.

Further information

NIAC's recommendations for COVID-19 are on the website <https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Advice-Provided-to-the-Department-of-Health> and references (including key reports) are listed at the end of recommendation documents.

Right of Appeal - Internal Review

If you are unhappy with this decision you may appeal it or if you do not receive your decision on the date stated above. Your appeal should be made in writing to the HSE National Lead Office, FOI, DP and Record Management, Scott Building, Midland Regional Hospital Campus, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. An internal review fee of €10 applies to medical card holders. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Health Service Executive. If you wish to make payment by electronic means please contact emma.kelly@hse.ie.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Decision Maker

HPSC