



Department of Health & Social Care

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

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Mrs Sara Rainwater-Lane
Email:

19 October 2020

Dear Mrs Rainwater-Lane,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1257280

Thank you for your request dated 21 September 2020 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

This is an information request relating to spending at SQ Bong Bong's. Please include information for the following period; 2019-20 and April 2020:

- 1. Total spending by the Department for Health and Social Care at SQ Bong Bong's.***
- 2. What types of products were purchased from SQ Bong Bong's by the Department for Health and Social Care.***

For ease of reference I have numbered the individual elements of your request. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

DHSC holds the information you requested.

Question 1

Total spending by DHSC at SQ Bong Bong's during the timeframe of your request is £47,528.68.

This is made up of £4,179.72 for 2019-2020 (only transactions are for March), and £43,348.96 for April 2020

Question 2

The supplier provided a range of different meals on a rotating menu, delivering lunches at 12:00 and dinners at 18:00. The meals were a roughly 50/50 split between vegetarian and meat options. The supplier also accommodated for a small number of dietary requirements, for instance, a gluten free meal with each delivery for any gluten-intolerant members of staff.

Outside of the scope of the FOIA, you may be interested in the following information. During the early stages of the COVID19 pandemic, DHSC set up a COVID response team to work out of its offices at 39 Victoria Street. As this was during lockdown, there were no hot food options available in the vicinity of the premises, and the team were working shift patterns, so there was a need to source hot food for the teams working evening shifts. The supplier in question was identified as still

operating and available to deliver to Victoria Street, and so was utilised until other arrangements could be made.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter and sent to FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk, or to the address at the top of this letter.

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

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Crowe

Freedom of Information Officer
E: freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk