

Mary Vinader
Whatdotheyknow

13 May 2019

Dear Ms Vinader

FOIA Request 565697

Thank you for your email of 2 May 2019 where you asked the question set out in the annex to this letter. I should comment that I don't think your supplemental question is actually a request which falls within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is not a request for information covered by the Act but instead queries why we don't hold certain information. Notwithstanding this I have answered your question but if you have other questions of this nature I would suggest you email me directly and not through whatdotheyknow.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this letter and should be addressed to: Graham Colbert on graham.colbert@genomicsengland.co.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Maltby
General Counsel and Company Secretary

Annex

In information slides you have released previously to me, it said Genomics England's workforce comprises a number of classification of people, including staff employed by consultants and service suppliers. How do you know our genomic data is 100% secure from misuse and illegal entry, and are using tax payers' money wisely if you do not hold this information?

We take data security very seriously. We have robust GDPR compliant contracts with each organisation we work with including those accessing the data. In addition, each person accessing our data is issued with individual credentials and must pass mandatory GDPR training before they get access. Our data centre operates as a reading library and it is only possible to take out data with our permission and with the approval of our Airlock committee. All research that is undertaken in the environment has to be approved by our Science Advisory Committee and our Access Review Committee.