

Question:

FOI Request for the following:

- *Copies of any briefing papers, internal reports, policy notes, or submissions prepared within the Department of Health relating to adopted adults' access to biological family medical history.*
- *Copies of internal correspondence (including emails or memoranda) between Department of Health officials discussing this issue.*
- *Copies of correspondence between the Department of Health and any other department, public body, advisory group, or external organisation relating to adoptees' access to family medical history.*
- *Records of any meetings where this issue has been discussed, including meeting minutes, agendas, or notes.*
- *Details of any policy review, consultation process, working group, or research activity initiated or considered by the Department relating to improving access to family medical or genetic history for adopted people.*
- *If no such work has taken place, please confirm whether the issue has been formally considered by the Department since February 2025 and provide any records explaining the Department's position.*

Response:

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our records, the Department of Health holds the following document:

- Email from Martina Moore to Martin Carey TEO - LTT Adoption Records and Medical / Genetic Information - Sent on 10/07/2025 and its attachment (Update Adoption Records")

There has been one redaction of the name of a junior member of staff acting on behalf of others, with no personal accountability. This redaction has been made in line with the exemption under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Separately the Department is in the process of updating "Access to Adoption Records and Adoption Agency Case Records for Adults Impacted by Adoption: Practice Guidance". While this may result in updates to references to medical information, substantive consideration of any changes relating specifically to medical information has not yet taken place. Due to unexpected staffing pressures the work to update this Guidance was previously paused. However, it has recently resumed with a view to publishing updated Guidance later this year

You have the right to request that the Department formally review this response within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you wish to do so, please

write FAO Internal Reviewer (foi@health-ni.gov.uk), Annexe 3, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SQ.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Date response issued: 15 April 2026

Reference Number: FOI DOH/2026-0062