

Question:

“For the period July 2025 to present, please provide:

- Internal Department of Health emails and attachments
- Inter-departmental communications between DoH, Health Trusts and PHA, NICR, DAERA, local councils, and other public authorities
- Records held in TRIM or other electronic records management systems
- Internal briefing notes, submissions, and situation reports
- Draft and final media statements and media handling lines
- Pre-prepared media Q&A or press briefing material
- Meeting minutes, call notes, and internal summaries
- Requests for analysis, advice, or data shared between bodies
- Internal communications concerning communications or media strategy on this matter

Search terms should include combinations of: childhood cancer, cluster, spike, Mid Ulster, Sperrin, and any internal case or reference numbers associated with these concerns.”

Response:

The Department has conducted searches of the information it holds, and the information identified as falling within the scope of your request is provided in the attached Annex.

Although this request covers the period July 2025 to present, information relating to part of that period was previously identified and disclosed under two separate Freedom of Information requests, one of which was already disclosed to you under DoH 2026-0044. An additional request was received covering the dates from 26 February 2026 to 06 May 2026. That information has been reproduced at Annex A for completeness. Searches were subsequently carried out for the period from 7 May 2026 onwards to identify additional information relevant to this request and these can be found in Annex B.

While routine administrative emails were included in previous disclosures on this matter, the breadth of the current request has necessitated a focus on records containing substantive information. Administrative communications relating solely to the management, allocation and coordination of work were reviewed during the search process but have not been included in Annex B, if they did not add to an understanding of the issues under consideration. Certain information has been withheld under Section 35(1)(d) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as it relates to the operation of a Ministerial Private Office, including the handling, consideration and clearance of draft material intended for Ministerial consideration. Some information within these Annexes has been redacted under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as it constitutes the personal data of junior officials and other individuals whose disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles. These redactions have been applied in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018 and relevant ICO guidance. The searches also identified several Written Assembly Questions (AQW 39146/22-27, AQW 39147/22-27, and AQW 39148/22-27). These have not been included as they are already publicly available and are therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. These may be accessed via the following link:

<https://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/search.aspx>

If you wish to request a copy of the annexes for this response, please contact the Information Management Branch team at FOI@health-ni.gov.uk.

Date response issued: 10 July 2026

Reference Number: DOH/2026-0136