Question:

I am requesting under Freedom of Information all communications, correspondence, emails, memos, letters, social media messages and billboard notes on the removal of all hand sanitisers from Trust sites in 2022, both internally within the Trust and also to and from all other outside organisations.

I am writing under Freedom of Information to ask how much Zidac Laboratories Antibacterial Hand Gel was purchased in the last 4 years and at what dates? How much was this product purchased for? Where is it currently being stored in Northern Ireland? How much is it costing to store in Northern Ireland? And I am requesting all correspondence and communications with the Department and to other outside organisations regarding the removal and or disposal of this product.

Response:

In relation to your request dated 3 January 2023, I am writing to confirm that the Department of Health has now completed its search for the information in relation to Zidac Laboratories Antibacterial Hand Gel and on the removal of all hand sanitisers from Trust sites in 2022.

1. All details on the procurement and stocking of Zidac Laboratories Antibacterial Hand Gel are held by Business Services Organisation (BSO) and not the Department of Health. DoH therefore has no information in relation to procurement, stock or disposal of this antibacterial hand gel.

2. The Department was verbally notified, by BSO, about the Urgent Product Recall Notification regarding the Zidac product, and on the foot of that, action was taken to notify relevant business areas in DoH, as well as Construction and Procurement Delivery in Department of Finance. The correspondence and communications within the Department and with DoF, can be found in Annex A attached. Please note names and email addresses of junior staff and non-decision makers have been redacted in line with ICO advice under Section 40 of FOI legislation. Likewise personal mobile numbers have been redacted.

3. The Department holds no information on the removal of hand sanitiser from Trust sites in 2022.

Date response issued: 26 January 2023
Reference Number: DOH/2023-0008