



Cabinet Office

Room 401
70 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2AS

foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
By email: [REDACTED]

FOI Reference: FOI2021/03168

5 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your request where you asked:

“a) How many pieces of social media content the Cabinet Office's disinformation Rapid Response Unit recommended be removed by social media companies in April 2020?”

b) With reference to part (a) how many of these content removal recommendations resulted in enforcement action by social media companies?

c) How many content removal recommendations by Cabinet Office's disinformation Rapid Response Unit were shared with Law enforcement in April 2020?”

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

a) In April 2020, the Rapid Response Unit notified social media companies on 6 occasions about content that potentially breached their Terms of Service and recommended their removal if so.

b) For all of these, content or accounts were subsequently removed, either by social media companies or by the users themselves.

c) The Rapid Response Unit did not share any content removal recommendations with law enforcement.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish

to request an internal review, you should write to:

Rachel Anderson
Head of Freedom of Information
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R Anderson', written over a light grey circular stamp.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office



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[REDACTED]
By email: [REDACTED]

FOI Reference: FOI2021/05695

5 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your request where you asked:

“Copies of correspondence between civil servants working for the Cabinet Office's Rapid Response Unit and executives from social media companies, where civil servants from the Rapid Response Unit notified social media companies about content on their sites that potentially breached their Terms of Service and recommended its removal, during April 2020.”

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

Please find attached the copies of correspondence per your request.

Some information contained within the correspondence is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as it constitutes personal data. As those persons could not reasonably expect that his or her personal information would be disclosed, and such disclosure would breach one or more of the principles in data protection legislation, this correspondence has been redacted or withheld as appropriate.

In addition, some of the information falls under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act which exempts information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, endanger the safety of any individual. The exemption in section 38 is a qualified exemption and we have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours

releasing or withholding this information. There is a general public interest in disclosure of information and we recognise that openness in government may increase public trust in and engagement with the government. I have weighed these public interests against a strong public interest in protecting the safety of individuals. The information exempt under section 38 is the addresses of Covid-19 test centers which if were made public may put members of staff and members of the public in danger. Taking into account all the circumstances of this case, we have concluded that the balance of the public interest favours redacting this information from the correspondence.

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Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



Fwd: Testing kits confidentiality/GDPR breach post on Facebook

From: [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
To: [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

29 March 2021 at 14:15

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]@fb.com>
Date: Fri, 10 Apr 2020 at 11:11
Subject: Re: Testing kits confidentiality/GDPR breach post on Facebook
To: [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@fb.com>, [REDACTED]@fb.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@fb.com>, [REDACTED]@fb.com>, [REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@culture.gov.uk>

Hi [REDACTED],

The account of the user has been deactivated by the user himself, so the content is no longer visible/available.

Please let me know if you have further questions/concerns.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 April 2020 08:53
To: [REDACTED]@fb.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@fb.com>, [REDACTED]@fb.com>, [REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@culture.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@fb.com>
Subject: Re: Testing kits confidentiality/GDPR breach post on Facebook

Thanks [REDACTED]

On Fri, 10 Apr 2020 at 09:47, [REDACTED]@fb.com> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for flagging this. I'll have our review team look into it ASAP.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 April 2020, 10:40 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Subject: Testing kits confidentiality/GDPR breach post on Facebook

Morning [REDACTED] and other Facebook colleagues,

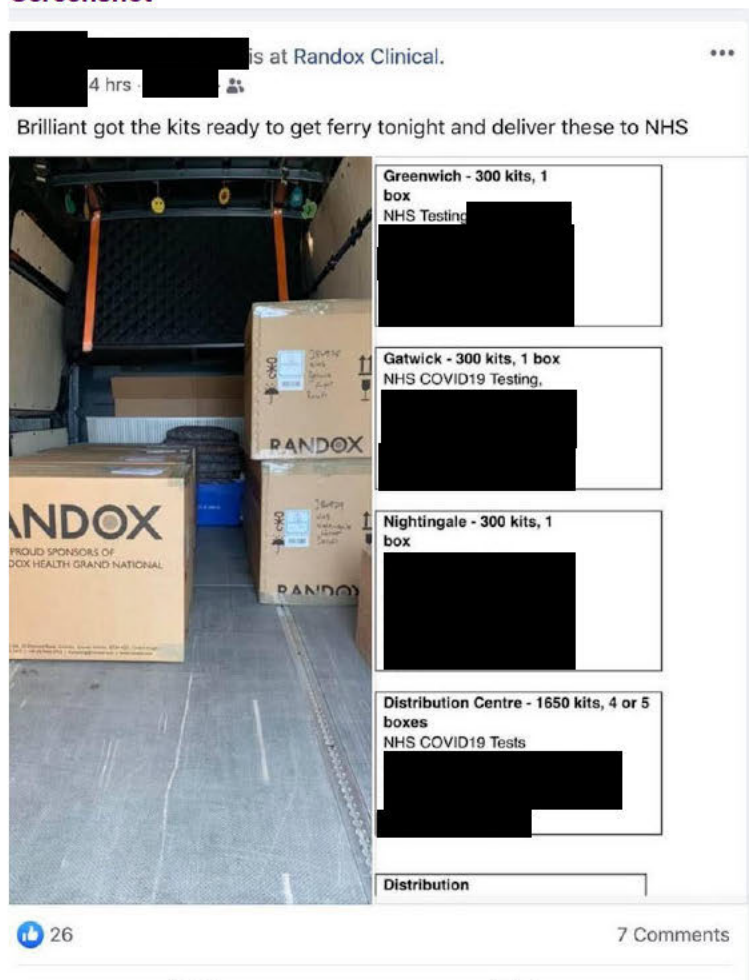
We have a slightly urgent issue come up and was hoping you can help.

Someone seemingly from the courier company delivering test kits has posted details of where they would be delivered exposing details of distribution centres which is a breach of GDPR as well as puts those centres at risk.

We would like this removed urgently please.

The post is set to 'friends only' so we can't see it on his profile.

Screenshot



[REDACTED] Rapid Response Unit
Prime Minister's Office & Cabinet Office Communications
[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Rapid Response Unit

Prime Minister's Office & Cabinet Office Communications

[Redacted]

[Quoted text hidden]