

18 July 2023

**IC-242393-J1Y9**

**Request**

You asked us:

*"As part of the ICO audit of the UK Government's Department for Education (DfE) advice was given regarding the development and implementation of information sharing agreements between independent data controllers and the requirement to take reasonable steps to ensure that the data DfE shares will continue to be protected with adequate security by the recipient organisation.*

*Did that advice include DfE requiring receiving organisations to undertake DBS checks on their employees, even where they do not work in regulated activity?*

*Did that advice include requiring individual employees of the receiving organisation to sign individual declaration forms and return these to DfE?*

*Did the ICO's advice on the above two points relate to data shared via mutual owned systems e.g. email to email and/or cloud hosted system that send links to recipients to download the data to be received?"*

We received your request on 3 July.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

**Our response**

We do not hold any information within the scope of your request. No advice of the type that you describe was provided in the Department for Education Audit. For information, the ICO does not generally provide advice in such specific detail as described in your request through the audit process.

## Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full review procedure [here](#).

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint through our website](#).

## Your information

Our [Privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and set out your rights. Our retention schedule can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely



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