



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Mr Mark Gamsu
request-614987-939cbbbed@whatdotheyknow.com

21 November 2019

Dear Mr Gamsu,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1194930

Thank you for your request dated 24 October in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“Subject: Freedom of Information request - Funding and Governance for National Academy for Social Prescribing

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Could you please provide the following information.

Funding

How much funding has been allocated to the NAFSP - amount and number of years.

If this funding has been provided from different sources please detail these and the amount - eg NHSE/DHSC etc.

Governance

Was the role of this new organisation put out to tender?

If not - what was the rationale - please provide the relevant report and information on where this decision was made - eg committee.

Why is the NAFSP established as a private limited company not as a CIC or Social Enterprise? Again, please provide relevant report where options are considered.

How were Directors for NAFSP recruited? Was there an open recruitment? If not please provide rationale, relevant report and committee where this was discussed. ”

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

How much funding has been allocated to the NAFSP - amount and number of years.

If this funding has been provided from different sources, please detail these and the amount - eg NHSE/DHSC etc.

- On 23 October the Secretary of State for Health announced there would be £5 million in grant funding to support the NASP for the financial year 2020/21, with the intention to also fund in future years. Decisions regarding future years will be subject to the usual financial planning prioritisation process that take place in the Department each year. All existing policy commitments are also subject to the outcome of the election and decisions of any incoming Government.

GOVERNANCE

Was the role of this new organisation put out to tender?

- No.

If not - what was the rationale - please provide the relevant report and information on where this decision was made - eg committee.

- The intention was to set up the Academy quickly and a tender process would have meant a significantly longer set up process. The Department therefore decided to use an approach that allowed set up more quickly.

Why is the NASP established as a private limited company not as a CIC or Social Enterprise? Again, please provide relevant report where options are considered.

- The intention is that the Academy becomes a charity. A company limited by guarantee (CLG) offered an appropriate route to initial establishment of the academy within the timeframe required and to allow to it apply for charitable status in due course.

How were Directors for NASP recruited? Was there an open recruitment? If not please provide rationale, relevant report and committee where this was discussed."

- The initial team of directors were appointed directly by the Secretary of State, in order to establish the organisation (CLG) quickly. The intention is to appoint a wider board with a process yet to be determined.

The academy now has a dedicated website which contains further information about its establishment.

<http://socialprescribingacademy.org.uk/>

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns>

Yours sincerely,

Ed Franklyn

Freedom of Information Officer

E freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk