



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending  
watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000  
Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264  
Email [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk)

Reference FOI-1639  
Date 27 July 2023

## COVID-19 VACCINATION STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION COSTS

Thank you for your request of 18 July 2023 for information about COVID-19 vaccination storage and distribution costs. We have handled your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Your request is set out in **Annex A** for reference.

We have reviewed our records and can confirm that we do not hold the information that you have requested.

While we do not hold the specific information you have requested, you may be interested in Figure 2 on page 18 of our report [The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in England](#) which shows a slightly more detailed breakdown of expenditure up to the end of October 2021. As per the table notes of Figure 2 and paragraph 7 of Appendix 2, it is worth noting that this analysis reflected our best understanding at the time of the report, but there were limitations and uncertainty in the completeness and quality of the financial and contractual information available to us.

Information about the costs associated with ultra-cold chain and cold chain storage and distribution of the vaccine may be held by DHSC and/or NHS England. If you have further queries in respect of this matter, you may therefore wish to contact DHSC and/or NHS England accordingly. You can contact them at:

[dhsc.publicenquiries@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:dhsc.publicenquiries@dhsc.gov.uk)

[england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net)

**Annex B** sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under FOIA.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**NAO FOI Team**

## **Annex A**

### **Request for information about COVID-19 vaccination storage and distribution costs:**

*“Under Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:*

*Within the N.A.O report “The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in England” on page 4 it states that £2.2 billion was spent on COVID-19 vaccine distribution and deployment in England to the end of October 2021.*

*Could you provide a breakdown for the ultra-cold chain (-20C or below) and cold chain (2-8C / refrigerated / 4C) storage and distribution costs?*

*Specifically, I would like to know the following breakdown:*

- *Ultra-cold chain storage costs*
- *Ultra-cold chain distribution costs*
- *Cold-chain storage costs*
- *Cold-chain distribution costs*
- *Total storage costs*
- *Total distribution costs*

*I would like you to provide this information in Excel format.”*

## **Annex B**

### **Statement of Policy**

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk) or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Alternatively you can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner’s Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.