

# GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

**(By email)**

Our reference: MGLA160323-2855

11 April 2023

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 16 March 2023. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act (FoI) 2000.

You requested:

Please provide copies of all correspondence between the mayor's office and NHS England and/or the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) relating to the halting of the polio vaccine booster rollout on December 23.

Our response to your request is as follows:

Please find below the information we hold within the scope of your request. Please note that this correspondence refers to the term 'pause' was used by the UK Health Security Agency and NHS England (rather than 'halted' as per your request).

Please note that some names of members of staff are exempt from disclosure under s.40 (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act. This information could potentially identify specific employees and as such constitutes as personal data which is defined by Article 4(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. It is considered that disclosure of this information would contravene the first data protection principle under Article 5(1) of GDPR which states that Personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA160323-2855.

Yours sincerely

**Information Governance Officer**

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If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

## FOI Disclosure

**From:** ADPH London Office

**Sent:** 08 December 2022 15:32

**To:** ADPH London Office

**Subject:** \*\*\*SENSITIVE\*\*\* Poliovirus & recent wastewater monitoring

**Importance:** High

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside this organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

**Sent on behalf of [Redacted – section 40]**

Dear All,

## SENSITIVE – NOT FOR SHARING

*Please keep this information confidential at this stage and only forward on a need-to-know basis.*

We have to inform you that recent wastewater monitoring by UKHSA has unfortunately found vaccine derived poliovirus in the Beckton sewage treatment plant catchment area. This has been genetically linked to the circulating strain identified previously in London. Analysis indicates that there has likely been undetected circulation at low levels in the time between this detection and the last positive sample. UKHSA will provide a formal update on this development as part of their regular polio IMT meetings.

There are implications for the Phase 2 plans for the polio booster programme which we had previously developed with our system partners. We are in agreement with UKHSA that we need to urgently explore next steps in the IPV booster campaign.

We can confirm that the planned step down of capacity on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December is still felt to be appropriate due to expected low demand over the festive season. Other approaches to maximising uptake, particularly in under-vaccinated and unvaccinated groups, will also be considered. We will be developing options over the next few days in consultation with our system partners to identify the optimal route forward.

Yours

NHSE London Public Health Commissioning

**[Redacted Section 40]**