



HM TREASURY

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

11 December 2009

Information Rights Unit

Tel: 0207 270 4558

Fax: 0207 270 4861

Ganesh Sittampalam

email: request-23134-7339ef57@whatdotheyknow.com

www.hmtesury.gov.uk
FOI.responses@hmtesury.gsi.gov.uk

Ref: 9/927

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: Childcare vouchers

Thank you for your enquiry dated 13 November. I am treating your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. You asked for the following:

"<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21036> states that "companies will still be able to offer childcare vouchers to the people they employ and in fact, we expect many of them will continue to provide support for childcare.

To the best of my knowledge, childcare vouchers are almost universally provided through salary sacrifice schemes and thus it would be pointless for employees to take up such schemes if there would be no tax advantage.

Please could you supply any research or other documents you hold that might back up the PM's claim, for example statistics or lists about employers providing childcare vouchers without requiring a salary sacrifice in exchange, or any explanation of why salary sacrifice schemes would still be worthwhile."

3. You will be aware that the Prime Minister on 4 December made clear that no family currently in receipt of tax relief for their childcare vouchers or employer contracted childcare will see any change in the support they receive. From April 2011, all new recipients of childcare vouchers will get the same income tax relief as basic rate taxpayers do currently in order to ensure that the system does not disproportionately benefit higher rate taxpayers. There is no reason to believe that any company will stop offering childcare vouchers.

4. Confirmation of the Government's decision on this matter is contained in the announcement on the No.10 website - the link is here: <http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21593>

5. HMRC administer tax relief on employer supported childcare. We do not hold the information you requested. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. It will be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Information Rights Unit
HM Treasury



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Copy right notice

Most documents supplied in response to a Freedom of Information request continue to be protected by copyright. You are free to use these documents for your information, including for any non-commercial research you may be doing. Documents can also be used for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Government officials will have produced most documents supplied by the Treasury and so the information will be Crown Copyright. Crown Copyright is managed by HMSO and you can find out details on the arrangements for re-using Crown Copyright on <http://www.hmso.gov.uk/copyright/licences/click-use-home.htm>

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

