



# HM TREASURY

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9 March 2010

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Information Rights Unit

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Ref: IRU/10/118  
CEU email Email/22368/10

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: COINS "Programme Objects"

Thank you for your enquiry dated 9 February 2010. I am treating your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. You asked –

- *"I would like to request the 'Programme Objects' and 'Programme Object Alias' from the COINS database and I would like these in a CSV form with their corresponding 'Programme Object Group Alias' and 'Programme Object Group' and government department".*

3. We are able to provide much of the information requested, however even in a zipped form the release amounts to nearly 400,000 Kb of data and we are considering how best to provide it to you. It is possible that we would need to send it in various tranches and you may wish to provide an alternative mail address for this.

4. We are not able to release information engaging the absolute exemption at section 23(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, concerning 'information supplied by or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters'.

5. Additionally, some of the information relates to military operations and as such engages the qualified exemptions at:

- Section 24(1) 'national security'
- Section 26 (1)(b) 'defence'
- Section 27 (1)(a) 'international relations'

6. These are qualified exemptions requiring us to balance the public interest between disclosure and non-disclosure. While there is a general public interest in transparency to inform debate, we do not consider that information of the type requested would either encourage or hinder any such debate. In contrast in this case, the stronger public interests are in withholding the information because:



- Where information relates to current military operations, the public interest is in allowing those operations to proceed unhindered. Release of new information linking descriptions with codes for associated costs (even where those costs are not released) could jeopardise the security of involved parties, personnel and the operations themselves.
  - The release of descriptive information, when combined with information currently available within the public domain, could disclose a composite of information more sensitive than its component parts.
  - Where information relates to joint operations or projects, the public interest is in ensuring that international relationships are properly maintained. Premature release of information falling into this category could jeopardise both the defence interests of the UK and our allies.
7. Accordingly, information falling within exemptions has been redacted from the attached file.
8. Programme Objects (POs) are dynamic, with them being created and ceasing to be used as required. The information provided was extracted from COINS on 3 March 2010. Some POs no longer in use have their description annotated to indicate that, but not all. POs no longer in use are not normally removed from the system; as a result very many of the POs listed may no longer be in use. Similarly, departments that are no longer active are retained on the system, and these will be included in the list as the programme objects are organised by department.
9. 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

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.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.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.

