



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
Government**

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Alan Johnson

Date: **9 September 2019**

Dear Alan Johnson

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 4408324**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 27 August 2019 and processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested: "*Please provide me with a copy of your business continuity policy and business continuity strategy.*".

I can confirm that we hold this information, but I am withholding it as explained below.

This information is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(a) of the FOI Act as disclosing it would be likely to harm the prevention or detection of crime.

Information falling within this exemption must still be provided however unless it is not in the public interest to do so.

There will always be some general public interest in disclosure to promote transparency and accountability of public authorities. In particular there will always be a public interest argument to disclose a Business Continuity Policy (BCP) to show that a public authority is prepared for all situations.

We consider that knowledge of our BCP, could provide external parties with information about how to disrupt our service and subsequently use that disruption to access either site or services. BCPs contain information regarding how MHCLG would respond to crisis situations and emergencies, as well as key information about the Departments systems and infrastructure. To make this information available in the public domain would defeat the purpose of this kind of planning and put the organisation at risk. It is clearly not in the public interest for this to occur.

I have decided, on balance, that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this time.

## Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you. (This is called an internal review.) If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within two months of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Knowledge and Information Access Team  
4th Floor SE, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address [casewoxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:casewoxx@xxx.xxx.xx) or use their online form at [ico.org.uk/concerns](http://ico.org.uk/concerns) or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,  
MHCLG FOI Team