



HM Treasury

Information Rights Unit
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Alex Clark

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25 September 2019

Dear Alex Clark

Ref: FOI2019/13602

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Plastic Packaging Tax Consultation

Thank you for your enquiry of 5 September 2019, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

*"Please may I be sent a copy of all the responses received with regards to the government's consultation on a plastic packaging tax that ran from 18 February 2019 to 12 May 2019, as detailed here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plastic-packaging-tax>*

For clarification, I am requesting the content of the responses themselves and the name of the organisation/individual who gave the response. I am not requesting a summary of the responses."

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

HM Treasury received 436 responses to the consultation on the plastic packaging tax. In order to comply with your request, we would need to review each response separately with a view to determining whether any information was exempt from release, for example, due to sensitivities or personal data, and to then redact any exempt material. The effort required to review, assess and extract that information would be considerable and would require a disproportionate level of staff effort. We therefore consider that the request engages section 14(1) of the FOI Act due to the disproportionate effort that would be required to comply with the request.

It may be that if you were to amend your request, for example, by being more specific about which consultation responses you are particularly interested in, we may be able to comply with a future request. However, I cannot guarantee that this would be the case. Some individual organisations have published their responses to the consultation, such as Environment Links UK, which can be found at:
<https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/ELUK%20Plastic%20packaging%20tax%20consultation%20response.pdf>

You may find it helpful to refer to the Information Commissioner's guidance to requesters which can be found online at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters 'IRU' in a stylized, cursive font.

Information Rights Unit

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If you are not happy with this reply, you can request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

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

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The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (or via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk>).

