

Freedom of Information Team

4th March 2019

REFERENCE: FOI/18/159

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your request for information dated 17 December 2018, detailed below.

Can you send me details of the current permanent secretary's expenses since they took up the role.

I would like this in a spread sheet please, to include the amounts spent and the recipient companies.

The information you have requested is covered by the following section of the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- Section 22(1) (intended for future publication)

Qualified Exemptions

The exemption provision of section 22(1) protects information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours maintaining the exemption in section 22(1) or disclosing the information.

I have provided details of our Public Interest Test considerations in Annex A to this letter. The Department has decided that the balance of public interest lies in withholding the information at this time. However please be advised that the Department intends to publish the information you have requested after the end of the current financial year.



If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask him to investigate whether the DOJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Manager



Annex A

22(1) (Information intended for future publication)

In favour of release:

- There is a presumption of general public interest in transparency and openness in how Government works.

In favour of non disclosure:

- Early disclosure prevents Government from dealing with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication.

Conclusion

The Department recognises there is a general public interest in disclosure and the fact that openness in government may increase public trust in and engagement with the government. However the planned release of checked and audited information in order to properly inform the public should not be prejudiced by premature release. In the light of this the balance of public interest is in favour of the temporary withholding of this information. The information requested will be published as soon as possible after the end of the current financial year.

