



# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. James McMaster  
[request-118065-f55cf71a@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-118065-f55cf71a@whatdotheyknow.com)

F12-223

14 August 2012

Dear Mr McMaster,

## **F12-223 Freedom of Information Request – Internal Review**

Thank you for your request for an internal review of our decision to withhold a copy of a letter sent to Mr Alex Salmond, from the House of Commons Library (ref. 98/8/56 EP/rjt) including a table prepared as a part of that letter. Please accept my apologies for the delay in our reply.

The Information Commissioner's guidance states "In the case of section 36 we expect that the qualified person would take the opportunity to consider their reasonable opinion again, taking account of any comments from the complainant."

The Speaker was invited to reconsider the case and was advised of your reason for seeking a review. However, his opinion remains unchanged and the information is exempt under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 36(2)(b)(i) applies to this information, on the basis that disclosure would be likely to inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and that section 36(2)(c) also applies, on the basis that disclosure would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs

In accordance with section 36(7), the Speaker has signed a certificate to confirm his decision. A copy of the certificate is attached.

I trust the above and enclosed clarify the matter.

Yours sincerely

**A J Walker**  
**Director General of HR and Change**

HOUSE OF COMMONS

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HR & CHANGE ANDREW WALKER CPFA FCIPD

DIRECTORATES: JANET RISSEN (CAPABILITY) SELVEN NAICKER (CHANGE) HEATHER BRYSON MA FCIPD (HR SERVICES)

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND CHANGE HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**Certificate issued under section 36(7) of  
the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

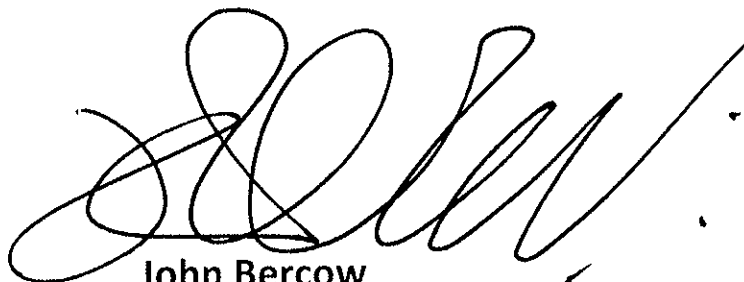
This certificate relates to a request to the House of Commons for the following information held by the House of Commons:

*A copy of the letter from the House of Commons Library to Alex Salmond MP (ref. 98/8/56 EP/rjt) which gave a table showing that, based on Scotland's GDP per capita, Scotland would occupy 7th place in the world's wealth league.*

As the qualified person under section 36(5)(d) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I hereby certify under section 36(7) of the Act, that in my reasonable opinion disclosure under section 1(1)(b) of the Act of a copy of the letter from the House of Commons Library to Alex Salmond MP (ref. 98/8/56 EP/rjt), which is held by the House of Commons, would, or would be likely to, have the following effects mentioned in section 36(2) of the Act —

- disclosure of a copy of that letter and a table would inhibit the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation, as mentioned section 36 (2)(b)(i) of the Act, and
- disclosure of a copy of that letter and a table would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs, as mentioned section 36 (2)(c) of the Act.

Under section 36(7) of the Act, this certificate is conclusive evidence of the fact that disclosure of that letter would, or would be likely to, have those effects mentioned in section 36(2) of the Act.



**John Bercow**

**Speaker of the House of Commons**