

By email only
Ms Janet Treharne Oakley



11 April 2014

Dear Ms Treharne Oakley

I am writing in response to your emails in which you expressed dissatisfaction with our handling of the above-mentioned information request. I apologise that it has taken longer than 40 working days to provide you with this response.

In your email you queried who took the decision to apply the section 36 exemption in this case and when they were appointed. At the outset I can confirm that the decision to apply the exemption contained within section 36 FOIA 2000 in this case was made by Dame Julie Mellor, DBE, the Ombudsman. Dame Julie was appointed the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman on 3 January 2012. Should you have further queries regarding the application of section 36 please direct these to our Freedom of Information/Data Protection Team.

Dame Julie has revisited her application of the exemption section 36 FOIA 2000 in light of the comments you have made. After reconsidering this matter Dame Julie has confirmed that she considers that the public interest arguments in favour of disclosure of these documents are still outweighed by the public interest arguments against disclosure.

I appreciate that the continued application of section 36 FOIA 2000 to your information request will be a disappointment to you. However with our commitment to openness and transparency in mind Dame Julie has asked me to highlight in this response that section 36 is a time limited exemption and that she will be willing to reconsider the release of the information in question at a later date should you request this.

That concludes our review. If you consider that we have not dealt with your information request properly you can raise the matter with the Information Commissioner. He can be contacted at:



Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP

Enquiries: 0345 015 4033
Fax: 0300 061 4000
Email: phso.enquiries@ombudsman.org.uk

www.ombudsman.org.uk

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5A

Yours sincerely



Steve Brown
Head of Risk, Assurance and Programme Management Office