



Home Office

Information Rights Team
Knowledge and Information Management
Unit
2 Marsham Street
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Mr Clive Waterman
[request-239855-047aeb7e@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

6 May 2016

Dear Mr Waterman,

Freedom of Information request: reference 39234

Thank you for your e-mail of 7 April 2016. You asked for the latest guidance with regard to the handling of subject access requests (SARs) under the Data Protection Act.

We are considering your request. Although the Act carries a presumption in favour of disclosure, it provides exemptions which may be used to withhold information in specified circumstances. Some of these exemptions, referred to as 'qualified exemptions', are subject to a public interest test. This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour of withholding the information. The Act allows us to exceed the 20 working day response target where we need to consider the public interest test fully.

The information which you have requested is being considered and to consider the public interest test fully we need to extend the 20 working day response period. We now aim to let you have a full response by 3 June 2016.

The rest of your concerns mentioned in the email of 7 April will be dealt with separately and you will be provided a separate response in due course.

Yours sincerely

S John
Information Rights Team