From: [Redacted]
Sent: 16 April 2015 09:48
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: FOI 927802 - Devolution of health funds to Manchester - DUE TOMORROW
Attachments: Inbound_Email_Body_927802.txt; Reply DE927802.docx

As requested, please see the cleared response to this FOI attached.

Regards,

Freedom of Information
Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS
E: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 16 April 2015 16:12
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: FOI 927802 - Devolution of health funds to Manchester - DUE TOMORROW

Thanks [Redacted] cleared.

Regards,

Head of Freedom of Information
Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS
E: [Redacted]
Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 16 April 2015 15:29
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FOI 927802 - Devolution of health funds to Manchester - DUE TOMORROW
14/04/2015

DE00000927802

Dear Mr. [Redacted]

Thank you for your request of 17 March 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

"I would like to find more background about the recent announcement of the devolution of health funding to Manchester. See, for example, the following report from 25 February 2015:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-31615218

In particular I would be grateful for the following information on this topic:
- Communications from the relevant finance and/or policy teams to Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and Special Advisors.
- Communications between Ministerial Private Offices and Special Advisors.
- Communications between Ministerial Private Offices and officials at No10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.
- Communications between the relevant finance and/or policy teams in the Department and officials at No10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.

I appreciate that there might be quite a lot of information here - I would therefore suggest that the request is limited to information from the beginning February 2015 to the current date."

I can confirm that the Department of Health holds information relevant to your request.

However, we consider that this information is exempt under Section 35(1)(a) of the FOI Act, which provides protection for information that relates to the formulation or development of government policy. Section 35(1)(a) is a qualified exemption and requires consideration of the public interest test.

The Department recognises the general public interest in making this information available for the sake of greater transparency and openness. However, the Department believes that the public interest lies in protecting the policy-making process and preserving the ability of officials in the Department to engage in free and candid discussion of policy options without apprehension that suggested courses of action may be held up to scrutiny before they have been fully developed or evaluated.
If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
Room G18
Richmond House
79 Whitehall,
London
SW1A 2NS

Email: freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner’s Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk
Hi,

Jon is content to approve the proposed draft reply to -[REDACTED]-. I would be grateful if you could act on, many thanks.

Kind regards,

Private Secretary to JON ROUSE
Director General's Office
for Social Care Local Government and Care Partnerships

From:
Sent: 15 April 2015 14:42
To: Scully, Edward
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: DEADLINES for FOI 927125 (15 April) and FOI 927802 (16 April): handling...

Please see the draft response to FOI 927802 attached.

If you are happy with it, please confirm whether Jon is content to clear it.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 April 2015 15:59  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: DEADLINES for [REDACTED]  

Thanks, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for turning this around so quickly for FOI 927802.

I'll run it past Jon tonight for clearance so should be able to get this back to you tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Private Secretary to JON ROUSE  
Director General's Office  
for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 April 2015 15:13  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: DEADLINES for [REDACTED]  
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED],

I'm back and looking through this.

I don't think there's confusion about the lead, and I have been working jointly together on these FOIs on Greater Manchester (GM) because they cut across both Richard's/David's and Jon's areas of responsibility - and Jon's ask to sign these off is because he is the DH rep on the GM Devolution Board as long as Richard/David are happy with their contribution (where it applies).

So over the outstanding two FOIs:

First, FOI 927802 from [REDACTED] asking –
"I would like to find more background about the recent announcement of the devolution of health funding to Manchester. See, for example, the following report from 23 February 2015:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-31615218

In particular I would be grateful for the following information on this topic:
- Communications from the relevant finance and/or policy teams to Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and Special Advisors.
- Communications between Ministerial Private Offices and Special Advisors.
- Communications between Ministerial Private Offices and officials at No10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.
- Communications between the relevant finance and/or policy teams in the Department and officials at No10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury."
I appreciate that there might be quite a lot of information here. I would therefore suggest that the request is limited to information from the beginning February 2015 to the current date.

ACTION: Shall I now get Jon to sign this off?

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Private Secretary to JON ROUSE
Director General's Office
for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 14 April 2015 11:36
To: [Redacted]
Subject: [Redacted]

grateful for an update on these cases. They feel to me like they should be a s.35(1)(a) (policy development) but I haven’t seen any of the related material so you would need to confirm that that is the case. SofS’s office and Penn Sec’s office are likely to have a view.

They are due [Redacted] and Thursday respectively.

Thanks

[Logo]
Head of Freedom of Information
Department of Health, 79 Whitehall SW1A 2NS
E: [Redacted]
Follow us on Twitter @DPgovuk
Hi,

Further to the email below, I would be grateful if I could escalate these cases, as I still have had no response from 927802 (due on Thursday).

As you can see from my email of 23 March (sent at 12:37, in the thread below), the original contribution requests for 927802 were sent to Richard Douglas' office and Jon Rouse's office, on 17 March and 18 March respectively. I had also advised that Jon's office was leading on 927802.

In addition, I had previously advised that Jon wanted to clear all Greater Manchester related FOIs.

The initial requests and the information located to date (by Jon's office and Richard Douglas' office which falls within scope of 927802 is grouped together in the email trail attached.

As discussed last week, there is a possible PIT extension argument (s35) in relation to both cases, especially as the response to DE925316 (also in the email thread attached) withheld information under s35(1)(e) and s35(1)(d).

Thanks,
From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 April 2015 15:53
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: DEADLINES for FOI 927802 (16 April): handling...

Hi [Redacted],

Many thanks for the update.

Kind regards,

Private Secretary to JON ROUSE
Director General's Office
for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships
[RH] exk
[Bluberry]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 April 2015 15:52
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: DEADLINES for FOI 927802 (16 April): handling...

needs to clear the reply (927802) and then I need to sight media centre in advance of issuing the response. currently in a meeting and so it may not be issued until tomorrow, but this will still be within the 20 working day legal deadline which we have to respond.

Regards,
Hi,

Sorry I got the FOI numbering the wrong way round.

Presumably we can issue the reply to [redacted] today, even though the deadline is tomorrow?

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Private Secretary to JON ROUSE
Director General’s Office
for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 April 2013 15:26
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: DEADLINES for [redacted] of 927802 (16 April): handling...
Importance: High

The deadline for 927802 (from [redacted] I have attached the initial request) is tomorrow, 16 April.

Thanks,
Hi,

I should've made clear that my feedback from Jon below refers to FOI 927802, deadline 16th April (tomorrow).

Kind regards,

[Redacted]
I have checked and Jon is happy to clear the FOIs once the information is collated. As discussed and from email exchanges you have forwarded, I understand is handling this and she will be back in the office on Tuesday.

Many thanks,

Thanks for the update – however, I am now not clear who is leading on these cases.

As you can see from my email of 23 March (sent at 12:37, in the thread below), the original contribution requests for FOI 927802 were sent to Richard Douglas' office and Jon's office, on 22 and 18 March respectively. had also advised that Jon's office was leading on 927802.

In addition, had previously advised (see email attached) that Jon wanted to clear all Greater Manchester related FOIs.

I would, therefore, be grateful if you could confirm whether Richard's office or Jon's office will be leading on the Department's response to the two outstanding FOIs, as the legal deadlines are imminent — Thursday 16 April for 927802.
Thanks,

Department of Health

Freedom of Information
Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 3NS

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 April 2015 11:02
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FV: FOI 927802
Importance: High

Just to follow up – I checked with Jon and he advised that policy leads (Ed Scully’s) team should have the FOIs in hand. However, having checked with [redacted] Ed’s team they had understood these are being handled by Richard Douglas’ office and you advised that in fact [redacted] leading on these – so I am afraid I have been unable to find out any further information in [redacted] absence.

Kind regards,

Department of Health

Business Manager to Jon Rouse
Social Care Local Government and Care Partnerships
Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 3NS

From: [redacted]
Sent: 09 April 2015 11:57
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FV: FOI 927802
Importance: High

Further to the email trail below, I would be grateful for an update on the two outstanding FOIs (FOI 927802) that Jon’s office is leading on, as I understand that [redacted] is now on leave until Tuesday 14 April.

You first need to collate any relevant information held by the Department in relation to each request before then deciding whether this information is to be released or withheld under a relevant exemption. As with [redacted] Jon will need to provide SCS clearance for both
As discussed, I have not been involved in these two FOIs or had instructions from [REDACTED] to carry out any work in relation to them in her absence. [REDACTED] did mention that she had been undertaking work in relation to FOIs.

I note the legal deadlines of 14th and 16th April, and that we cannot exceed the legal deadline for 20 working day response unless there is a qualified exemption. However, [REDACTED] would need to advise on her return where she is with the responses. I have not been sighted on the work and would be starting from scratch in looking into the two FOIs and don’t want to duplicate any work that has already carried out.

[REDACTED] will be back in the office at approx. 10am on Tuesday 14th April and I will ask her to contact you as a matter of urgency.

Many thanks,
Further to the email trail below, I would be grateful for an update on the two outstanding FOIs (927802) that Jon's office is leading on, as I understand that he is now on leave until Tuesday 14 April.

You first need to collate any relevant information held by the Department in relation to each request before then deciding whether this information is to be released or withheld under a relevant exemption. As with (927802), Jon will need to provide SCS clearance for both responses. Further details on handling FOIs, including a full list of exemptions, is available on the intranet at: https://in.dh.gov.uk/how-to/manage-information/freedom-of-information/.

Please note that the legal deadline for our response to (927802) and the legal deadline for our response to 927802 is 16 April.

Regards,

[Signature]

Freedom of Information
Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS

Further to the email below, I would be grateful for an update on these FOI requests – FOI 927802. For ease of reference, I have attached the emails from which you have received previously and which both relate to FOI 927802.

Regards,

[Signature]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 March 2015 13:06
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Query FOI Manchester
Apologies for confusion – as I have not had access to requests for contributions to these FOI.

As discussed with I understand Jon (Rouse) is the lead DG for all "Manchester" related FOI.

I have two emails re 927802 – I will reply separately on that one.

From:  
Sent: 2 March 2016 12:37  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Query FOI Manchester

We spoke. As requested, please see attached two outstanding FOIs that I have relating to Manchester.

927802 – this was originally sent for contribution to (cc'd to and ) on 16 March. You advised that Jon Rouse’s office is leading on this case. I have also attached an email sent by confirming that SofS’s office hold some information relevant to this request. The legal deadline for our response to the applicant is 16 April.

Further information on handling FOI's is available on the intranet at: https://in.dh.gov.uk/how-to/manage-information/freedom-of-information/
Please let me know if you wish to discuss any exemptions or if I can be of any further assistance.

Regards.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 25 March 2015 12:07
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Query FOI Manchester

Do you still have outstanding FOI on Manchester? Our head of office [Redacted] was dealing with this, but has been out of the office last week, so not sure where we are on this.

I had assumed that, as Jon Rouse is the lead DG, all correspondence between HMT and DH had been copied to Jon. This does appear to be the case, but I have just found the email below in our IWS "NHS Providers" folder:

Can you give me a ring?
As per previous email, some emails on Manchester FOIs have been going to MB – but I missed them, as was out of the office last week and is still not back (due to minor op).

I had assumed that, as Jon Rouse is the lead DG, all correspondence between HMT and DH had been copied to Jon. This does appear to be the case, but I have just found two attached emails which appear relevant to FOI 927802 (copy below for your convenience).

I understand the legal deadline for our response to the applicant is 16 April in this case.

Chris

FOI 927802:
From: [redacted] Sent: 17 March 2015 16:00 To: FreedomofInformation
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Information on devolution of health funds to Manchester

Dear Department of Health,

I would like to find more background about the recent announcement of the devolution of health funding to Manchester. See, for example, the following report from 25 February 2015: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-31615218

In particular I would be grateful for the following information on this topic:

- Communications from the relevant finance and/or policy teams to Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and Special Advisors.
- Communications between Ministerial Private Offices and Special Advisors.
- Communications between Ministerial Private Offices and officials at No10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.
- Communications between the relevant finance and/or policy teams in the Department and officials at No10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.
I appreciate that there might be quite a lot of information here - I would therefore suggest that the request is limited to information from the beginning February 2015 to the current date.

I hope that this request is clear, do contact me if you need any clarification.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

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Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with the Department of Health's policy on the use of electronic communications. For more information on the Department of Health's e-mail policy click here http://www.dh.gov.uk/terms
Our response to... does not necessarily answer the FOI request made in 927802 (attached). This is because 927802 is differently worded and spans a longer timeframe (from the 1 February to 17 March 2015, the date on which the Department received the request) than...

In terms of answering 927802, I need... yourself to gather all the information that the Department holds that falls within scope of the request, as only then can you decide whether to release or withhold that information. I note from... email of 18 March (also attached) that SoS's office hold information relevant to 927802, and that they wish to withhold this information under the same exemptions used in the earlier request - s35(1)(a), relating to the formulation or development of government policy, and s35(1)(d), relating to operation of a Ministerial private office. However, it is possible that there may be additional information held in the Department, that falls within scope of 927802 and which needs to be released, or withheld - possibly under a different exemption(s) - before a response can be drafted for Jon's clearance.

Thanks,
From: [Redacted]
Sent: 20 March 2015 08:09
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Devolution of Greater Manchester healthcare budget - contribution DEADLINE: 13.03.15

Hi [Redacted],

Can you confirm if this also answers FOI 927802 (deadline = 25 March) because I thought [Redacted]

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]
Private Secretary to JON ROUSE
Director General's Office
for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
18 March 2015 14:43

RE: FOI 927802 - Devolution of healthcare funding to Manchester (Due:25/03/15)
RE: Manchester [UNCLASSIFIED]; RE: Planning Round; RE: Flight today

Some emails from me attached. As with related FOIs I would want to withhold these under either because they relate to the formulation of government policy (Manchester and Planning Round email) or operation of a Ministerial private office (flight today email).

Best,

Department of Health

Deputy Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State
Richmond House, 73 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS

From: 18 March 2015 10:02
To: 18 March 2015 10:02
Cc: 18 March 2015 10:02
Subject: FOI 927802 - Devolution of healthcare funding to Manchester (Due:25/03/15)

You have been asked to contribute to a FREEDOM OF INFORMATION request, case number DE00000927802. Please return your contribution by 25/03/2015.

Dear Contributor,

Please see attached a new FOI request. Could you please confirm whether you hold any information relevant to this request?

If this request is not for you, any advice you can provide on who I should approach with this would
be welcome.

Many thanks,

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any reading, printing, storage, disclosure, copying or any other action taken in respect of this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by using the reply function and then permanently delete what you have received.

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Draft Due Date: 31/03/2015  Subject: Information on devolution of health funds to Manchester

You have been chosen to answer the following correspondence.
Please click on the link below to access the case on Contact.

http://dhinfo.doh.gov.uk/ContactWeb/Correspondence.aspx?CorrId=927802&TAB=ACTION

Thank you.

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any reading, printing, storage, disclosure, copying or any other action taken in respect of this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by using the reply function and then permanently delete what you have received.

Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with the Department of Health's policy on the use of electronic communications. For more information on the Department of Health's e-mail policy click here http://www.dh.gov.uk/terms
Please log as FOI and allocate to the team.

Regards,

-----Original Message-----
From: [mailto:]
Sent: 17 March 2015 16:00
To: FreedomofInformation
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Information on devolution of health funds to Manchester

Dear Department of Health,

I would like to find more background about the recent announcement of the devolution of health funding to Manchester. See, for example, the following report from 25 February 2015:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-31615218

In particular I would be grateful for the following information on this topic:
- Communications from the relevant finance and/or policy teams to Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and Special Advisors.
- Communications between Ministerial Private Offices and Special Advisors.
- Communications between Ministerial Private Offices and officials at No10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.
- Communications between the relevant finance and/or policy teams in the Department and officials at No10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.

I appreciate that there might be quite a lot of information here - I would therefore suggest that the request is limited to information from the beginning February 2015 to the current date.

I hope that this request is clear, do contact me if you need any clarification.

Yours faithfully,

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

Is FreedomofInformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Department of Health? If so, please contact us using this form:
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/change_request/new?body=dh

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