



Department of Health

17/11/2015

DE00000966789

Dear Mr Fugard,

Thank you for your request of 26th October 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

“CCGs and other mediating organisations make decisions about how much funding mental health receives, but this is as a proportion of budgets decided at Treasury level. Any budgetary planning at Treasury level must therefore take mental health into consideration, alongside other areas of healthcare.

I am writing to inquire about advice provided by Department of Health to Treasury on mental health budgets.

- 1. Who in DH provides this advice?*
- 2. What advice has been provided to inform the most recent budget allocation for health?”*

I can confirm that the Department does hold this information but it is being withheld under s35(1)(a) of the Act (the formulation or development of Government policy) and decisions have not yet been made.

We are required to assess as objectively as possible whether the balance of public interest favours disclosing or withholding information under s35 of the Act. DH recognises a general public interest in promoting openness in the way in which public authorities manage major current events. However, the purpose of the exemption at s35 is to protect the internal deliberative process as it relates to policy making. In other words, the exemption is intended to ensure that the possibility of public exposure does not deter from full, candid and proper deliberation of policy formulation and development, including the exploration of all options, the keeping of detailed records and the taking of difficult decisions. Premature disclosure of information protected under section 35 could prejudice good working relationships, the neutrality of civil servants and, ultimately, the quality of Government.

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,

Alison Tingle

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk