



Department  
for Exiting the  
European Union

Freedom of Information Team  
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SW1A 2AG

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[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Roger Boaden  
Via: request-447728-cedcc8e3@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: DEX0008559

13 December 2017

Dear Roger Boaden,

I refer to your request, where you asked for:

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Please provide details and dates of all meetings held by DExEU Ministers from 1 January 2017 until the date of the reply to this request, which each or all Ministers held with the following:

1. British in Europe, the Coalition of 10 organisations which have a signed-up membership of some 35,000 British Citizens across all EU Member States.
  2. The 3 Million, an organisation which represents the 3 million EU Citizens working and living in the UK, and which has more than 30,000 Forum members.
  3. The Officers and officials of the European Research Group.
  4. The Officers and officials of the Legatum Institute.
  5. The Officers and officials of the Constitutional Research Council.
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The Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) is committed to transparency and regularly publishes information relating to Ministerial meetings in our quarterly transparency data. I have included a link below to our transparency data and relevant information can be found up until June 2017:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-for-exiting-the-european-union&publication\\_type=transparency-data](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-for-exiting-the-european-union&publication_type=transparency-data)

Information relating to Ministerial meetings with the organisations listed in your request since June is being withheld as exempt from disclosure under s.22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

Section 22 of FoIA exempts information from disclosure if it is intended for publication at some future date, whether the date is set or not. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and I

have considered whether the public interest favours releasing or withholding this information.

There is a public interest in transparency being demonstrated by releasing information to the public as transparency increases public trust and engagement with government. However, transparency is also achieved by DExEU regularly publishing information regarding Ministerial meetings on DExEU's website. Whilst there is a public interest in government providing information they hold that falls within the scope of an FOI request as quickly as possible, this needs to be balanced with the strong public interest in government ensuring maximum cost effectiveness. Providing the information you have requested in response to an FOI request is not the most cost effective way of placing this information in the public domain especially when it will be published in due course on DExEU's website, as is standard Government practice.

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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI team. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to [foi@dexeu.gov.uk](mailto:foi@dexeu.gov.uk) or:

Freedom of Information Team (internal review)  
Department for Exiting the European Union  
9 Downing Street  
SW1A 2AG

You should note that DExEU will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

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

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

**Freedom of Information Team, DExEU.**