



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Reference: FOI 2018-0027767

20 July 2018

Sent via email – request-493242-71cb00e7@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Downs,

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 26 June 2018. You requested:

I should be grateful if you could let me know the total amount of 'exceptional' grants given to academy trusts to stabilise their finances in financial year 2017/18. I should also be grateful if you could supply me with a breakdown giving the names of academy trusts receiving such a grant and the amount.

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

The Department holds the information you have requested but this information is exempted under S36(2)(c) of the Act. This information has been judged, in the reasonable view of a qualified person, to be exempt under Section 36(2)(c) as its release would likely prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.

This exemption is subject to a public interest test, which we have considered. There is a public interest in the accountability of public finances and ensuring they represent value for money; and this is reflected in the requirement that trusts publish annual audited accounts. As the regulator however, the ESFA needs to be able to engage with trusts on complex financial issues. As part of this engagement, the ESFA may provide additional funding to enable trusts to recover their financial position and preserve the effective education of children. Disclosure of such a list has the potential to prejudice this work.

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

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, who were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Simons', with a large, stylized initial 'E' and a decorative flourish at the end.

Emily Simons
Deputy Director – Academies National Operations
Education and Skills Funding Agency