



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

**Freedom of Information
Team**

Correspondence Unit
9 Downing Street
SW1A 2AG

foi@dexeu.gov.uk
www.gov.uk

Thomas Gallagher
Via: request-517436-4cbc1f1e@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: DEX001430

1 October 2018

Dear Thomas Gallagher,

I refer to your request, where you asked:

Can you please tell me and provide me with information and or analysis you hold about the impact of Brexit (in whatever deal or no deal) for communities and or businesses within

- A) Liverpool City Council
 - b) Liverpool City Region
-

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

There is some information in the public domain which you may find of interest:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/exiting-the-european-union-committee/publications/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-governments-preparations-for-a-no-deal-scenario>

With regard to your specific request for information relating to Liverpool City Council and Liverpool City Region I can neither confirm nor deny whether the Department for Exiting the EU (DExEU) holds any information which may relate to your request. Section 35(3) of the Freedom of Information Act confirms that the duty to confirm or deny does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt under section 35(1)(a), which includes information relating to the formulation or development of government policy.

Section 35 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the public interest in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether or not DExEU holds any information relating to your request. There is a general public interest in openness in government, confirmation or denial may

increase public trust in and engagement with the government.

These public interests are weighed against a strong public interest that policy-making and its implementation are of the highest quality and informed by a full consideration of all options. Confirming or denying whether the specific information you have requested is held would undermine the policy making process at this crucial stage of development. I have determined that in all circumstances of the case, public interest favours maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny whether we hold information in relation to your request.

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 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.