



JOSEPH LLOYD

By email: [request-544261-eac03e15@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-544261-eac03e15@whatdotheyknow.com)

FOI Reference:FOI327451

11/02/2019

Dear JOSEPH LLOYD

I refer to your request where you asked:

*'I wish to see a full copy of the data sharing report by Sir Nigel Sheinwald on the subject of data sharing between the British government and US corporations in 2015.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/02/web-firms-data-sharing-secret-treaty>'

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

The information you have requested is exempt under section 24(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 24 exempts information from disclosure if its exemption is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Section 24 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours releasing or withholding this information. There is a general public interest in the disclosure of information and I recognise that openness in government may increase public trust in and engagement with the government. There is a definite public interest in members of the public being able to understand the defence of the country. I have weighed these public interests against a very strong public interest in safeguarding national security. This interest could only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Taking into account all the circumstances of this case, I have determined that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information.

The Cabinet Office published an unclassified summary of Sir Nigel Sheinwald's report in 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/special-envoy-on-intelligence-and-data-sharing-summary-of-work>

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:

Eirian Walsh Atkins  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

email: [foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

You should note that the Cabinet Office 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 Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Eirian', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

FOI Team  
Cabinet Office