



Ermine Amies
request-725161-d00b8501@whatdotheyknow.com

8 March 2021

Dear Ms Amies

Freedom Of Information Request DB 2146

Thank you for your email sent to the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland which we received on 7 February 2021.

You asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- 1. Any application you made in 2019 or 2020 to be a “Stonewall Diversity Champion” or to be included on Stonewall’s “Workplace Equality Index,” including any attachments or appendices to those applications. Please redact personal details if necessary.*
- 2. Any feedback you received in 2019 or 2020 from Stonewall in relation to either application or programme.*
- 3. Any other communication you have received from Stonewall in 2019 or 2020 unless privileged or otherwise exempt from disclosure (but if you claim privilege or exemption in relation to any material, please say in broad terms what the material is and the basis on which you claim to be entitled to withhold it).*
- 4. Full details of any equality impact assessment you carried out connected with any of these applications (including any equality impact*

assessment carried out prior to an earlier application of the same kind, if no further assessment was done).

5. Details of the total amount of money you paid to Stonewall (i) in 2019; (ii) in 2020, whether or not as payment for goods or services.

6. Whether you intend to continue your membership of any Stonewall scheme in the future, and if so which.

I can confirm that the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland does hold information falling within the terms of your request.

The FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days, and a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case.

We do, of course aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including in cases where we need to consider where the public interest lies in respect of a request for exempt information.

In this case, however, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies.

In your case we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 7 April 2021. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The specific qualified exemption which applies in relation to your request is section 43(2). Section 43(2) provides that information is exempt if it would prejudice (or be likely to prejudice) any legal person's commercial interests.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be addressed to:

FOI Officer
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland

Queen Elizabeth House
EDINBURGH
EH8 8FT

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The contact details are:

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

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

FOI Officer
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland