



Department for International Trade

Department for International Trade
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FOI2021/01002

9 March 2021

Dear Mr J Abbot Chalew,

Thank you for your email of 10 February where you requested the following information:

I noted with interest the refusal of the Prime Minister's Deputy Official Spokesperson Jamie Davies to confirm that an impact assessment of the EU Trade Deal (EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement) will be published.

It is my understanding that it is standard government practice to complete such impact assessments, as the Department for International Trade recently did after the conclusion of the trade accord with Japan in October 2020.

I request that you provide the following information:

1. The impact assessment of the EU Trade Deal (EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement).
2. If an impact assessment of the EU Trade Deal has been produced – all communication both inside the Department and between other public authorities that references the decision making behind why the impact assessment should or should not be published.
3. If an impact assessment of the EU Trade Deal has not been produced – all communication both inside the Department and between other public authorities that references the decision making behind why the impact assessment should or should not be produced.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). We have interpreted your request to be asking for an impact assessment on the EU Trade Deal itself, rather than for example, an impact assessment for consequential legislation required as a result

of the Deal, such as the impact assessment for the Trade Bill. With this interpretation in mind, I can confirm that the Department for International Trade (DIT) does not hold information in relation to question 1 above.

On subsequent requests parts 2 and 3, we regret that we are unable to respond to your request because it exceeds the cost limit set out by the Act.

Section 12

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We consider your request would be over the statutory limit because in order to retrieve all the information we might hold within scope of your request, we would need to search through a very large quantity of information. You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you wish to obtain in particular, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required.

If you would like further information regarding the cost limit and how it is applied please refer to the Office of Public Sector Information website using the link below:

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/20043244.htm>

It may also be useful to note that the TCA sits with Cabinet Office.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit:

Information Rights Unit
Department for International Trade
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW Email: foi@trade.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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 Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Department for International Trade