



HM Treasury

Information Rights Unit
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6 February 2020

Dear Mr Owen

Ref: FOI2020/00559

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Loan Charge Review

Thank you for your enquiry of 12 January 2020 which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"Please provide ALL correspondence including emails, letters, meetings, phone calls etc... between Sir Amyas Morse / The Loan Charge Review secretariat team and HM Treasury relating to the Loan Charge Review commissioned by the government."

We have identified information that falls within the scope of your request, which we believe engages the exemption provided for by section 35(1)(a) of the FOI Act (development and formulation of government policy). This is a qualified exemption and we are required to balance the public interest between disclosure and non-disclosure.

By virtue of section 10(3), where public authorities have to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to a request, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances.

We always aim to reply to requests in full within 20 working days, even when the balancing of the public interest is required; however in this case, the Treasury has not yet resolved the different considerations. We therefore need to take some additional time to assess whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

We estimate it will take us another four weeks to complete our consideration though we will of course reply sooner if possible.

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

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

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If you are not happy with this reply, you can request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury which is outlined above.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (or via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk>).