



31/07/2018

John Johnson

(by email only: request-488162-12ac7a77@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Johnson,

Cabinet Office Internal Review Reference: **IR326358**

(Original Case Reference: **FOI326358**)

REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2018. You asked for an internal review of our response to your request for information of 30 May 2018. In your request you asked for information:

"1. Request: Data that outlines the justification for making the Behavioural Insights Team independent from the UK Government. Response to answer: I feel that you comprehensively answered this aspect, thank you.
2. Request: Provide the documentation that outlines how data is shared between the Government (and its Departments) and the now independent Behavioural Insights Team. Has the Cabinet office specifically shared data and if so, what data and on what basis? Response to answer: Whilst you have not answered this aspect in depth, I understand why that is in respect of the various departments this team works on behalf of, however, I feel that you should state whether your Office specifically has shared data, what data and on what basis. Please provide this information, for the Cabinet Office specifically, in relation to the Behavioural Insights Team.
3. Request: Provide a copy of the research ethical procedures that the Behavioural Insights Team must follow when they conduct research on behalf of the Government. Response to answer: This has not been answered and therefore I'd like to request information in terms of the research ethic procedures that the Behavioural Insights Team must follow.
4. Request: Confirm whether the Behavioural Insights Team has ever conducted covert research, without gaining informed consent from participants. Response to answer: This has not been answered and therefore I'd like to request confirmation in respect of whether the Behavioural Insights Team has ever conducted covert research, on behalf of the government, without getting informed consent from all participants."

I have carefully reviewed the handling of your request and I consider that the requests were properly answered. I believe that the balance of the public interest was fully considered for the reasons set out in our letter of 22 June 2018. I have therefore concluded that I should uphold the decision given in our letter.



I have considered the points you make in your Request 2 noted above concerning “...*I feel that you should state whether your Office specifically has shared data, what data and on what basis. Please provide this information, for the Cabinet Office specifically, in relation to the Behavioural Insights Team.*” It would be helpful if you could please clarify what information or shared data is requested. Behavioural insights suppliers (including BIT) provide different types of work product and information to us which is held according to the specifications of each supplier contract.

Cabinet Office does not hold the information requested in your third and fourth request noted above as clarified in our letter of 22 June 2018.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request for information 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,

Eirian Walsh Atkins
Head, FOI Clearing House
Cabinet Office