



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

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Vicky Cann
Via: request-445805-4e42c41c@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: DEX000989

30 April 2018

Dear Vicky Cann

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REF: DEX000989- INTERNAL REVIEW

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 March 2018 requesting an internal review of your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). I have now completed the review.

Your original request of 13 November 2017 asked for "*the minutes of all meeting's held, since its creation, by DEXEU ministers*" with 13 specific organisations, along with a list of attendees for each meeting.

The response from the Department of 29 November under reference DEX000814 informed you that your request was refused under section 14 of the Act. Your subsequent request received on 10 January 2018 for the minutes of 39 specific meetings was also refused, and the Department failed to respond to your follow-up request of 9 February for assistance in refining your request.

I have now reviewed our response. The Department has not provided adequate advice and assistance to aid you in making a request as required under the section 16 obligation and I apologise for this.

The decision to refuse your request under section 14 was, as explained in our response to you, due to the volume of information that would be potentially captured by your request, and the subsequent burden on the Department's resources in processing your request. This was established by considering the resources required to retrieve the information, review it, consult with external stakeholders and prepare any information for disclosure. Your request

for the minutes of the 39 meetings covered a wide range of topics and would be likely to require extensive consultation on potential disclosure.

Conclusion

I find that the exemption at section 14 of the Act was correctly applied, however, the Department has failed to provide adequate advice and assistance under the duty provided for by section 16 of the Act.

If you are able to refine your request further, by asking for the minutes and attendance lists of groups of meetings held with specific organisations, for example there are two meetings listed with Goldman Sachs and two meetings with Arbutnot Banking Group within the timeframe of your request, this would make retrieval and consultation manageable.

I must also make you aware that the information you have requested has not been reviewed and other exemptions of the Act may apply to any refined request you make.

This response ends the complaints process provided by the Department. If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

J Millar
Information Rights Appeals
Freedom of Information Team