

Mr Cross  
By email

020 7270 5000  
foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

13 July 2023

Ref: FOI2023/10667

Dear Mr Cross,

## Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 20 June 2023, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

On 30 May 2023 you asked for the following information:

*"I understand that has been the policy of successive governments not to make retrospective changes to pension schemes. Please provide a copy of the policy document which sets out the policy in this area."*

We replied on 20 June 2023 and explained that under section 1(3) of the FOI Act, a public authority need not comply with a request unless any further information reasonably required to locate the information is supplied. We asked you to clarify whether your request refers to all pension schemes, or a specific type of pension scheme, such as private pension schemes or public sector pension schemes. We explained that we would be able to process your request once we have received clarification.

On 20 June 2023 you sent the following email:

*"In my view, my original request is sufficiently clear to constitute a valid request without the need for further clarification. I do not want the limit my request to any particular pension scheme or type of scheme."*

We are unable to confirm whether HM Treasury holds information within the scope of your request.

Your request as currently drafted is very broad. In order to identify if we hold any information would require widespread multiple searches to be made by a number of Treasury teams in order to locate any information held. This is because the Treasury does not collate information in a way that could be used to easily identify possible information within the scope of your request.

We estimate that to search and locate any information held would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for central Government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

Under section 12 of the FOI Act departments are not obliged to comply with requests in these circumstances. It may be that if you were to amend your request, for example, by specifying a timescale and being more specific about the type of information/pension schemes that you are interested in we may be able to comply with a future request. However, we cannot guarantee that this would be the case.

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](mailto: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>).