



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
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www.gov.uk/mhclg

Ogmet

Date: **3 June 2019**

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 4258651

Thank you for your request for information which was received on 23 May 2019.

You requested: "*Dear Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government,*

I thought this query may be a matter for your attention. If I'm wrong please let me know.

BEIS explain the following: ..Each local authority Trading standards do have discretion as to whether, and to what extent, to investigate a particular complaint and their decisions are taken in the collective interests of the public, rather than the interest of the individual complainant.

They also explain: MHCLG provides core grant funding to local authorities and that, finances and priority setting for local Trading Standards teams is ultimately a matter for local discretion.

Is there not a conflict between Trading Standards statutory duties and local authority Trading standards discretion? That one wishes to present evidence to the same, where should a complaint be directed? Is it to you?

A reference to any paper or electronic document held by you which deals with the above would be welcome. That no such document exists; no provision exists, kindly identify who to alarm?"

This request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

I can inform you that trading standards policy and funding responsibility is a policy led by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). You may wish to contact their FOI Team about your request. This can be reached at the following email address:

foi.requests@beis.gov.uk

If you remain unhappy after having been through the council's complaints process, you may wish to approach the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. The independent Ombudsman is charged by Parliament with investigating complaints from members of the public who have suffered personal injustice arising from maladministration by local authorities. Further information on the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman can be found at: <http://www.lgo.org.uk/>.

Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you. (This is called an internal review.) If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within two months of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Knowledge and Information Access Team
4th Floor SE, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address casewo@ico.org.uk or use their online form at ico.org.uk/concerns or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,

MHCLG FOI Team