



**16/06/2020**

**Philip Holden**

**(By email only: [request-645875-70572443@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-645875-70572443@whatdotheyknow.com))**

Dear **Philip Holden**

Cabinet Office Internal Review Reference: IR2020/06462

(Original Case Reference: FOI329551)

## REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your email of 29 May. You asked for an internal review of our response to your request for information of 13 February 2020. In your request you asked for information relating to the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament's Russia Report.

I have carefully reviewed the handling of your request and I consider that the exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act were properly applied. I believe that the balance of the public interest was fully considered for the reasons set out in our letter of April 2020. I have therefore concluded that I should uphold the decision given in our letter.

I have considered the points you make about your original inquiry, and on review also find that insofar as the correspondence you request is of the ISC, this would be exempt under section 23(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 23(1) states that information held by a public authority is exempt information if it was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in section 23. The Intelligence and Security Committee is named in Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 23 is an absolute exemption and the Cabinet Office is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eirian Walsh Atkins', written over a horizontal line.

Eirian Walsh Atkins