

By Email only:

Steve Fannon

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My Ref: L/CW/ 2590/58

Date: 21 March 2018

Dear Mr Fannon

FOI Request – London Borough of Wandsworth – Wandsworth leaseholders and funding for fire safety work
Review of Decision

I have been asked by the London Borough of Wandsworth to carry out a review of the response you received to your request of 24 December 2017.

Your request was:

“in the Council's article –

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/article/14249/council_leader_urges_chancellor_to_provide_financial_support_to_leaseholders_over_fire_safety_measures - it states that "Council leader Ravi Govindia has written to the Chancellor Philip Hammond in the wake of today's Budget to request specific financial aid for Wandsworth leaseholders to help them pay their share of the cost of installing sprinklers in their homes following the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Can the missive which was sent to the Chancellor Hammond please be provided and any response that has been received?”

At the date you requested an internal review, on 21 February 2018, you had not received a response to the request.

You received a belated response to this request and the information sought was refused under section 36(2)(c) Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it was considered that disclosure “would ...prejudice, or would be likely...to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs”.

Paul Evans

Assistant Director of Corporate Governance London Borough of Merton

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In carrying out this review I have considered the ICO Guidance "Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs (section 36) [20150319 (Version3)]. I have also considered the letter from Cllr Ravi Govindia, Leader of Wandsworth Council, to Philip Hammond MP dated 22 November 2017 and the response from Dominic Raab MP Minister of State for Housing dated 23 January 2018.

Whereas I can see that correspondence passing between a local authority and Central Government may in some instances prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs I do not consider that this particular correspondence falls into that category. The Leader of the Council was asking if Central Government would provide funding for fire safety works for leaseholders and I am sure that the response of Central Government was a standard response it had given to the many local authorities asking the same question. I note from Dominic Raab's response that that the views of the Secretary of State had also been made in Parliament on 4 December 2017. Central Government's suggested approach to the issue was therefore in the public domain.

If you are dissatisfied with my decision then you may take the matter to the Information Commissioner's Office at:

Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

Fax: 01625 524 510

<https://ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely



Mr Chris Warner, for Assistant Director Corporate Governance