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Ms Alison Benson  
Via email to: [request-559143-  
1539c9b2@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-559143-1539c9b2@whatdotheyknow.com)

2 April 2019

Dear Ms Benson

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request (Our Reference 52735)**

Thank you for your email of 8 March 2019, in which you requested any recorded information held which shows how the Home Office went about designating a Data Protection Officer (DPO). A full copy of your request can be found in Annex A. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The role was evaluated as being Senior Civil Servant (SCS) PB1 and an external advertising campaign was launched to fill the role. Applicants were shortlisted against the essential criteria detailed in the recruitment pack. Individual leadership assessments were conducted by psychologists and then a panel was convened to interview the applicants. The process was carried out in full accordance with the Cabinet Office guidelines on SCS recruitment and the recruitment principles of the Civil Service Commission.

I am able to disclose the DPO Recruitment Information set out in the enclosed Annex. The information contained within the Annex has been subject to some redaction under section 40(2) of the FOI Act. We have redacted one page as we do not consider it to be in scope of your request.

The Home Office has obligations under data protection legislation and in law generally to protect personal data. We have concluded that the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act, because of the condition at section 40(3A)(a). This exempts personal data if disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

If the information provided within this FOI response is not what you require, please resubmit another FOI request detailing the exact recorded information that you are seeking.

Please note, the DPO also covers Her Majesty's Passport Office (HMPO).

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to [foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk), quoting reference **52735**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

**S Mason**

**Information Rights Team**

Switchboard 020 7035 4848

Email [foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk)

## **Annex A – FOI request**

Dear Team,

Article 37 of the General Data Protection Regulation requires the designation of a data protection officer, if an organisation is carrying out particular activities.

<https://gdpr-info.eu/art-37-gdpr/>

I am trying to find out how organisations chose who would be the designated DPO, based on their professional qualities, expert knowledge of data protection law and practices and the ability to fulfil the tasks referred to in Article 39.

If the name of your DPO is not listed on the Information Commissioner's Register,, then I am happy for you to redact this, however please provide any recorded information you hold which shows how your organisation went about designating a DPO.

Yours faithfully,

Alison Benson