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**Case Reference: IR/FOI/2015/79**

Date 17/12/15

Dear A. Nasir

Thank you for your request for an internal review dated 21 November 2015 in relation to your Freedom of Information request dated 1 October 2015.

I can confirm that I, as the Secretary to the British Council, have now carried out the internal review in relation to this matter. The purpose of the review is to allow an impartial and thorough consideration of the decision and handling of the request.

As part of my review I have looked at your original request, our letter of response and any supporting correspondence relating to this case, so that I can make an informed assessment of how your request was handled.

I have consulted with key stakeholders within the British Council in relation to the arguments used for the public interest test and I have taken into consideration the points you raised for the weight in favor of disclosure. Your point about British Council having a monopoly over the IELTS exams business in these particular countries has been carefully considered however we do have significant competition from Pearson test of English (PTE), TOEFL and IDP who also deliver IELTS in those countries.

In my view the benefits to the public interest in disclosure do not outweigh the likely damage to British Council's commercial interest if this information were to be disclosed. On balance, I find that the public interest lies in withholding the information therefore I am upholding our response to your original request.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113  
Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Coutts', written in a cursive style.

**Alison Coutts**  
Secretary to the British Council

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