

David-Alexander Varney
By e-mail

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20th November 2023

Ref: FOI2023/18058

Dear David-Alexander Varney,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 8 November 2023, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"i recently sent an FOIA request to HMRC agents, after which they stated that they didn't hold the information that i required. Instead, they recommended that i forward the question to you.

*My question is straight forward and just requires a yes or no answer. Does any tax deducted from people's wages in the UK go towards funding wars in foreign countries? Yes, or no?
Please also evidence your answer"*

The FOI Act provides a right to recorded information. In order to exercise this entitlement, a request must describe the specific recorded information sought. We believe that the terms of your enquiry do not constitute a valid request for recorded information within the meaning of section 8(1)(c) of the FOI Act, as it is not a request for specific recorded information, rather a general question about hypothecation of personal taxes. We are therefore responding outside the FOI Act.

Income tax is the largest source of Government revenue and helps to fund the UK's schools, hospitals and other essential services that we all rely on. In 2023-24, the Office for Budget Responsibility expect income tax to raise around £268 billion. However, income tax is not hypothecated for specific uses.

The Government provides an 'Annual Tax Summary', which shows how the Government calculates and spends an individual's income tax and National Insurance contributions. This can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/annual-tax-summary>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

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Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury which is outlined above.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (or via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk>).