



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Reference: FOI 2018-0015855

27 April 2018

Sent via email – request-464973-901106fe@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Jolley,

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 03 April 2018. You requested:

A list of those organisations in receipt of a concessionary loan.

*I also discussed providing the details e.g. the amount loaned, if it's interest free.
The annual repayment and the loan term.*

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

The Department holds this information but it is exempted from disclosure under S.43 of the Act, regarding prejudice to commercial interests.

This exemption is subject to a public interest, which we have considered. While there is a public interest in the accountability of academies' spending and ensuring that public finances represent value for money; it would not be in the public interest to disclose this information.

Disclosing the names of trusts and details of trusts with outstanding recoverable funding has the potential to damage the confidence of the trusts' customers and stakeholders, e.g. pupils, parents and staff and suppliers and have a detrimental impact on the trusts' bargaining position with contractors and their ability to achieve value for money when dealing with suppliers. In the most serious cases, where trusts are at risk of cumulative deficit, such outcomes could harm the trust's recovery and compromise the education of their children.

In response to the separate point in your correspondence that this request for information is overdue, it should be noted that our previous response to you, dated 29 March 2018, was our final response to your updated request, received 07 March 2018. Under the terms of the Act, your further request for information, dated 03 April 2018, is counted as a new request and so would have a new deadline of 20 working days, starting from 03 April.

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

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, who were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely,

p.p.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ES', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Emily Simons

Deputy Director – Academies National Operations
Education and Skills Funding Agency