

Emma Burgess

Sent via email: request-571967-0530d2fc@whatdotheyknow.com

24 May 2019

Ref: ENQ-314259-M5R3X3

Dear Emma Burgess

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 29 April 2019. You requested “a copy of any emails/meeting notes and reports relating to the whistle blowing complaint issued to ESFA in October 2018 ENQ-289433- F6C7K324/10/2018 - Cotham School – Academies”. I am dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

The Department holds the information you have requested. However, I consider that the following exemption apply to your request:

Section 42 of the Act - Legal and professional Privilege. This covers confidential communications between lawyers and clients and certain other information that is created for the purposes of litigation.

The Act obliges the Department to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, where one of the exemptions listed above is applicable, the Department must consider whether the public interest lies in disclosing or withholding the information. In these circumstances the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days.

In your case the Department estimates that it will take an additional 15 days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. It is anticipated that you will receive a full response by 20 June 2019. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

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, which 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

Grant Edgeworth