



Home Office

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Barbara Jones
request-230888-2ebdab3f@whatdotheyknow.com
cc: request-343266-7668b89b@whatdotheyknow.com

Reference: 40259/40260

20 July 2016

Dear Ms Jones,

Thank you for your e-mails of 2 July 2016, in which you ask for information relating to the non-statutory Independent Panel Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

Request 40259: “Please could you tell me which unit and who in the Home Office vets the prospective chairs, and what criteria they are vetted for.”

Request 40260: “Who and in what unit in the Home Office carried out the vetting of Fiona Woolf? Were the people in charge of vetting aware of the relationship between Leon Brittan, his wife and Fiona Woolf when she was appointed? (Please release any documents about this).”

As these requests were sent in response to our letter of 14 June 2016, we have interpreted them both to be in relation to the appointment of Fiona Woolf as Chair of the non-statutory Independent Panel Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

The Safeguarding Directorate in the Home Office was responsible for carrying out appointment checks of Fiona Woolf to assess her general suitability for this position, as opposed to specific criteria.

The Home Office holds the information that you requested about the names of the individuals who conducted those checks. However, after careful consideration we have decided that this information is exempt from disclosure under the exemption at s.40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (personal information). The Home Office has obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 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 Freedom Of Information Act, because of the condition at section 40(3)(a)(i). This exempts personal data if disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act.

The Home Office does not hold information about awareness of a relationship between Leon Brittan, his wife and Fiona Woolf which would answer the question in the second part of your request.

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 the address below, quoting references 40259 and/or 40260. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Rights Team
Home Office
Third Floor, Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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

Yours sincerely

Safeguarding Unit