



HM Treasury

Information Rights Unit
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Mr Ian Tamm

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29 March 2019

Ref: FOI2019/03539

Dear Mr Tamm

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Senior Civil Servants Training

Thank you for your enquiry of 5 March 2019, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"Would you be kind enough to provide me with a list of all the course which members of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) have attended during the past five years. Could you please divide this list into 'in house' training, training for which an external agency was paid, and part-funded training."

I can confirm that the Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request. However, your request as currently drafted is very broad and in order to locate the information we hold would require us to search across a number of databases and consult at Group level which would be a lengthy and time-consuming activity.

This is because the Treasury does not collate information in a way that could be used to easily identify possible information within the scope of your request. A complete record of training is not held centrally, some aspects of training are devolved to each group within the department and training relevant to all civil servants is held by Civil Service Learning (CSL), the learning platform created by Cabinet Office that provides learning and development for all civil servants.

We estimate that to search and locate the information we hold would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for central Government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act departments are not obliged to comply with requests in these circumstances. It may be that if you were to amend your request, for example, by narrowing the timescale and being more specific about the type of information that you are particularly interested in, for example, just the information we hold centrally or a list of courses that are recommended for SCS staff and held by CSL, we may be able to comply with a future request. However, I cannot guarantee that this would be the case.

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

Yours sincerely

IRM

Information Rights Unit

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If you are not happy with this reply, you can request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

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>).

