



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

Freedom of Information Team
9 Downing Street
SW1A 2AG

foi@dexeu.gov.uk
www.gov.uk

Frank Church
Via: request-534586-709b5724@whatdotheyknow.com

Our refs: DEX001554, DEX001573,
DEX001574, DEX001575, DEX001576,
DEX001577, DEX001589

20 December 2018

Dear Frank Church,

I refer to your requests received from 23 November 2018 to 02 December 2018, where you asked:

DEX001554: I wish to see full copies of the 'GOOL' (Government Owned or Operated Logistics) plan to ensure supplies of goods and medicines continue in the event of an 'no-deal' Brexit.

DEX001573: I wish to see full copies of any and all sectoral studies regarding Brexit.

DEX001574: Please supply me with full copies of any and all meetings with Legatum Institute and the Department for Exiting the European Union (DEXEU).

DEX001575: I wish to see full copies of any and all meetings held with SCL Group, Cambridge analytica and AggregatIQ.

DEX001576: I wish to see the department's senior staff structure chart as of 03/12/2018 (including: full names, job titles, rates of pay please include temporary/interim staff and contractors also). If the this document does not currently exist please create it.

DEX001577: I wish to see the total number of compromise agreements or 'gagging orders' made by the Department from 01/01/2012 through to 03/02/2018 and the total amount spent for each year. For example: Year - Number of agreements/orders - Total spend (£).

DEX001589: I wish to see a full copy of the document titled 'Brexit Communications Grid Summary'.

I can confirm that the Department has considered your requests for information, however, we consider the requests to be vexatious under Section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

Section 14(1) of the Act states a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information where the amount of time required to review and prepare

the information for disclosure would impose a grossly oppressive burden on the organisation.

In this instance, we believe Section 14(1) is engaged where the number of requests submitted within a 60 day period places a disproportionate level of disruption on the Department and its public resources to collate, review the information within scope, and consider for disclosure. This burden on the Department's time and resources would, in turn, unreasonably deflect our time and resources from other valid requests and Departmental work. The necessity to protect a public authority's resources and to ensure the purpose and benefit of the Act is not disproportionately abused was recognised in *Information Commissioner vs Devon County Council & Dransfield [2012]* and we believe these points are applicable in this case.

Overall, we have determined these requests engage Section 14(1) and will close these requests. We suggest that you consider which one of your requests you would like to submit for consideration and should you re-submit a request, we will recognise the new request and respond in accordance with the Act.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to foi@dexeu.gov.uk or:

Freedom of Information Team (internal review)
Department for Exiting the European Union
9 Downing Street
SW1A 2AG

You should note that DExEU will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by DExEU. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team, DExEU.