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Our Ref: 19FOI/172

19th December 2019



S Rhosier

request-629116-a6e6d059@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear S Rhosier,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 18th December 2019 to the Wales Office in which you requested the following information:

1. With reference to:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-50809649>

specifically:

'Mr Hart said: "It's great to have this opportunity. I've got my orders and I'm going to try and do it as best I can." '

Please detail what orders have been issued to Mr Hart, by whom and upon what date, as a matter of public interest in his latest new appointment.

2. With reference to:

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/617873/response/1480113/attach/html/3/FOI328933%20S%20Rhosier.pdf.html>

Was Simon Hart present at the meeting on 29 November 2019?

3. With reference to:

<https://www.publictechnology.net/articles/news/simon-hart-confirmed-gds-minister>

Simon Hart was appointed Parliamentary Secretary (Minister for Implementation) at the Cabinet Office on 27 July 2019 - his first ministerial position in a junior role. What protocols, policies and procedures exist to ensure that ministerial appointees satisfactorily acquire and demonstrate aptitude in a new post as is the case in customary 6-month probationary periods?

4. With reference to:

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/politics/simon-hart-welsh-secretary-boris-17431064>

Simon Hart was appointed Secretary for Wales on 16 December 2019.

What protocols, policies and procedures exist to ensure that ministerial appointees satisfactorily acquire and demonstrate aptitude in a higher level post without completing a minimum of at least 6 months satisfactory service in a prior entry-level cabinet role?

5. With reference to:

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/politics/simon-hart-welsh-secretary-boris-17431064>

Simon Hart is described as 'an outspoken supporter of hunting and the badger cull' and has been connected with the Countryside Alliance and Vote-OK for the majority of his professional life.

What government protocols, policies and procedures are in place to ensure that Mr Hart will be monitored for impartiality as liaison for all of Wales, not just particular interest groups?

Your request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We will endeavour to respond to your request within the twenty-working day deadline provided by section 10(1) of the Act and no later than 20th January 2020.

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

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team