



HM Treasury

Information Rights Unit
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F Thompson

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21 May 2019

Dear F Thompson

Ref: FOI2019/06203

Freedom of Information Act 2000: HM Treasury Social media accounts

Thank you for your enquiry of 23 April 2019, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"Has Her Majesty's Treasury ever asked Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or any other popular Social Media platforms to remove posts or block accounts from third parties, either via the providers built-in tools or other channels? If so, please provide high level details."

Following a search of our records, I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

The Treasury's digital communications team does not routinely remove posts or block accounts on social media. However, if a large volume of spam has been sent, in-app blocking tools have occasionally been used.

On examination of the accounts, a small number of accounts were found to have been blocked. We estimate these accounts were blocked more than two years ago. Details of these are below:

Instagram

HM Treasury has blocked three accounts on Instagram. We have reported approximately 10 comments to Instagram using its spam reporting function.

Twitter

Six accounts are blocked from the Treasury's account on Twitter. We have reported one comment to Twitter using the in-app reporting function.

Facebook

Six people have been banned from the Treasury's Facebook page.

YouTube and LinkedIn

No accounts have been blocked and no posts have been removed on LinkedIn and YouTube.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Information Rights Unit

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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>).

