

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: VTR 3571

26 Aug 2014

Dear Mr Lythgoe

Thank you for your request of 12 August 2014 in which you asked:

*I would like to make an FOI request to view the Ministerial Diary of Iain Duncan Smith for the month of August 2014, and in particular to see listed all events whether public or private where he made a speech or contributed to debate. So, for example, on the 11th of August the department published a speech that stated it was to be delivered in London by Iain Duncan Smith. For this event and similar I would like to know where Iain Duncan Smith was, and what organisation or event he was attending.*

The Department publishes, on a quarterly basis, information relating to Ministerial meetings held with external organisations. This information can be found via the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/search?q=dpw+ministers+meetings+with+external+2013>

Similar information relating to the month of August will be published in due course. Information which is intended for future publication is exempt from release under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act. In this instance it is clearly in the public interest that the Department maintains its ongoing and well established publication cycle.

In addition, the Department publishes all Ministerial speeches, along with details of where they were delivered. This information can be found via the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/announcements?keywords=&announcement\\_filter\\_option=speeches&topics%5B%5D=all&departments%5B%5D=department-for-work-pensions&world\\_locations%5B%5D=all&from\\_date=&to\\_date=&commit=Refresh+results](https://www.gov.uk/government/announcements?keywords=&announcement_filter_option=speeches&topics%5B%5D=all&departments%5B%5D=department-for-work-pensions&world_locations%5B%5D=all&from_date=&to_date=&commit=Refresh+results)

With regard to the remaining entries in the Secretary of State's diary I can confirm that the management of a Minister's diary is exempt information under section 35(1)(d) of the FOI Act. In addition diary entries relating to the development of Government policy is exempt information under section 35(1)(a) of the Act.

All Ministers of the Crown are entitled to expect that their confidential diary entries will remain private. I am therefore satisfied that it is in the public interest that the diary entries you seek should be protected. This stance is particularly compelling in respect of any future meetings/commitments which post-dated the receipt of your request on 12 August.

Finally, names of prospective participants in any diary commitments would be exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Act – third party personal data. Disclosure of such names would breach their right to privacy contrary to the Data Protection Act.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI Team

---

**Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)