

JJ Evans

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13 April 2022

Dear JJ Evans

Ref: FOI2022/05762

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 16 March 2022, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"A copy of the Infected Blood Compensation study undertaken by Sir Robert Francis QC."

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

Section 22(1) of the FOI Act (information intended for future publication) is engaged for the information. As confirmed to Parliament by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and HM Paymaster General on 15 March 2022, the Government intends to publish the Study, and the Government response, "... in time for the Inquiry and its core participants to consider them before Sir Robert gives evidence to the Inquiry".

[Study on Infected Blood Compensation Framework - Statement made on 15 March 2022 \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/debate/infected-blood-compensation-framework-statement-made-on-15-march-2022)

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we are required to consider the public interest in early disclosure against the public interest in publishing the information in the future.

There is a strong public interest in the publication of information of this nature. However, public authorities must, within reason, have space to be able to determine our own publication timetables and deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication.

The FOI Act recognises that the coincidence of individual requests for information should not determine the publication timetables of public authorities, outside a planned publication. Given this, and that it would be in the wider public interest to make the study available to everyone at the same time, rather than to pre-release it to individuals, we judge that the balance of the public interest lies in not disclosing the information at this time, but in releasing the information within the planned publication.

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

Yours sincerely
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.

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