

Mr Mathew Kitson

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20 May 2021

Dear Mr Kitson

Refs: IR2020/33135
FOI2020/26660

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Internal Review

Thank you for your email dated 10 September 2020, requesting an internal review of our handling of your information request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act), under our reference: FOI2020/26660.

Background

On 2 July 2020, you made the following request under the FOI Act:

"I would like to know the amount of people, who earn over £50000 per year, that are receiving support through the CJRS (job retention scheme)"

On 30 July 2020 we provided our interim response. We explained that we held information in scope of your request and by virtue of section 10(3) of the FOI Act, we needed to give further consideration to the public interest with regard to the information under section 35(1)(a), which relates to the formulation or development of Government policy. We advised you that we expected to provide our substantive response by 13 August 2020 and then updated you again to advise you that we expected to respond by 28 August 2020.

On 10 September, you requested an internal review as follows:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Her Majesty's Treasury's handling of my FOI request 'Job retention scheme high earnings'.

I am still awaiting a response, i was told to expect it by the 28/08/20 it is now the 10/09/20."

The Review

I note that we provided our substantive response to you on 8 February 2021. In that response, we apologised for the long delay in providing our reply. The FOI Act allows us to extend our time for response when considering the balance of the public interest. We know that the Information Commissioner expects that a public interest extension should

normally be limited to a further 20 working days, though there may be circumstances where a longer extension may be necessary. On this occasion, the time taken far exceeded the expectations indicated by the Information Commissioner and we apologise again for the delay.

We must also apologise for the fact that this internal review response was not provided to you alongside our substantive response.

Yours sincerely

Head of Information Rights Unit