



Mr C Thompson

(by email only: request-302900-65113017@whatdotheyknow.com)

27th January 2016

Dear **Mr Thompson**,

Cabinet Office Internal Review Reference: **322057**
(Original Case Reference: **FOI 322057**)

REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your email of 24 December 2015. You asked for an internal review of our response to your request for information of 22 December 2015. In your request you asked for information regarding public service pension schemes.

I have carefully reviewed the handling of your request and I consider that the exemption at section 35 of the Freedom of Information Act was applied mistakenly. I apologise for this error. This is because, having reconsidered your original request, my view is that the original question does not constitute a valid request for information as outlined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Act gives a right of access to recorded information that already exists. For example, a Freedom of Information request would be for a copy of a policy, rather than an explanation as to why we have that policy in place.

On occasion, the Cabinet Office receives requests that do not ask for recorded information, but ask more general questions about, for example, a policy, opinion or a decision. Advice on how to make a valid request can be accessed on the Information Commissioner's website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request for information you, have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Helen Ewen
Deputy Director, Cabinet Office