



Home Office

Office for Security and
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Joseph Reddington
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FOI: 45389
07 November 2017

Dear Dr. Reddington

Thank you for your e-mail of 12/09/2017, in which you ask specifically:

'Please send a list of Civil Society Organisations that you work with under the Contest Strategy and outline the process of engaging CSOs'

In our previous letter, we confirmed that Prevent, as part of the CONTEST strategy works with a range of civil society organisations to counter extremist views and to equip people in communities with the ability to reject those narratives.

In relation to the information requested, we reserve the right to withhold the information in full, and rely on the exemptions at sections 24, 38 and 43 of the Freedom of Information Act. These sections of the Act pertain respectively to national security, health and safety, and commercial interests. Sections 24, 38 and 43 of the Act are qualified exemptions and require the consideration of the public interest test.

This information is withheld in full in order to protect the aims of the CONTEST strategy and people who may work in support of the Home Office. Further explanation of this decision, including the public interest tests are set out in the attached Annex.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **45389**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Rights Team
Home Office
Lower Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
E-mail: FOIRequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you

remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information
Home Office**

Annex

Public Interest Test

Section 24 – National Security

24 (1) Information which does not fall within section 23(1) is exempt information if exemption from section 1(1)(b) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Considerations for disclosure

The Home Office recognises that there is a general public interest in transparency and openness in government. Such openness would increase public understanding and inform public debate. In the context of this request, there is a public interest in disclosing information of Civil Society Organisation that work with Prevent. This would increase the public awareness of the efforts of those supporting activities to prevent terrorism.

Considerations against disclosure

Disclosure of Civil Society Organisations and individuals that work with Prevent could negatively impact the delivery of the Prevent strategy. Safeguarding national security is of paramount importance; Prevent activity is targeted against those forms of terrorism that pose the greatest risk to our national security. Disclosure of this information is not in the public interest, and will undermine efforts to protect national security.

Section 38 – Health & Safety

Section 38(1) of the Act states: ***Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to - (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or (b) endanger the safety of any individual***

Considerations for disclosure

The Home Office recognises that there is a general public interest in transparency and openness in government. Such openness would increase public understanding and inform public debate. In the context of this request, there is a public interest in disclosing the information of Civil Society Organisation that work with Prevent. This would increase the public awareness of the efforts of those supporting activities to prevent terrorism. This would provide information about individuals who are, or have been, engaged in the delivery and support of a range of activities to prevent terrorism and could provide assurance to the public.

Considerations against disclosure

As above, disclosure of Civil Society Organisation that work with Prevent could identify individuals who are, or have been, engaged in the delivery and support of activities to prevent terrorism. Disclosing this information could put individuals at considerable risk of intimidation, serious injury or harm from those who support terrorism and seek to damage the UK's interests, and harm individuals within its communities. We assess that the safety of any individual is of paramount importance and that in all circumstances, the public interest is best served by withholding the information of Civil Society Organisations that work with Prevent.

We assess that the safety of any individual is of paramount importance and that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest is best served by withholding information on Civil Society Organisations that engage with Prevent.

Section 43 – Commercial

Section 43 (2) of the Act states: ***Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).***

Considerations for disclosure

The Home Office recognises that there is a general public interest in transparency and openness in government. Such openness would increase public understanding and inform public debate. In the context of this request, there is a public interest in disclosing the information of Civil Society Organisation that work with Prevent. This would provide information about organisations who are, or have been, engaged in the delivery and support of a range of activities to prevent terrorism and could provide assurance to the public.

Considerations against disclosure

For organisations identified as delivering Prevent, or who openly deliver Prevent work, releasing these reports could impact negatively on their ability to deliver. Given the controversy surrounding Prevent, communities (and other groups/bodies) may not wish to work with, or be associated with, any organisation that has worked with the Home Office in delivering Prevent. These factors would affect the commercial viability of such groups and also serve to undermine the effectiveness of the Home Office's Prevent strategy.

We assess that protecting the commercial viability of organisations which are working with, or may have worked, with the department is of paramount importance; the public interest is best served by withholding information on Civil Society Organisations that engage with Prevent.