



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency  
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Tel: 0370 000 2288  
<https://www.gov.uk/esfa>

Date: 29 August 2017

Reference number: 2017-0040782

Dear Ms Spence

Thank you for your request for information, which was received 9 August 2017. You requested the contact details for all multi-academy trusts (MATs) to include how many academies are in each MAT. You also requested contact details for each MAT (email, telephone number), including the head office postal address and the name of the head of estates/facilities where available. You requested this information in Excel format.

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As part of the Department for Education, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is responsible for funding academies, university technical colleges, studio schools and free schools within England and has responded to your request. The ESFA does hold the information you require but we do not collect MAT telephone numbers or the name of the head of estates/facilities.

We have interpreted 'contact' as the accounting officer. In line with the Academies Financial Handbook, the accounting officer of a multi-academy trust should be either its chief executive or executive principal. Please see the below description of the accounting officer role from the Academies Financial Handbook:

#### *1.5.19 Responsibilities of the academy trust's accounting officer*

*1.5.20 Each academy trust must designate a named individual as its accounting officer. The individual must be a fit and suitable person for the role. In trusts comprising a single academy this should be the principal. In multi-academy trusts it should be the chief executive or executive principal.*

The ESFA holds the following information about accounting officers that falls within scope of your request: name, contact role, direct email and postal address<sup>1</sup>.

I have enclosed the data you requested with a small number of email addresses removed. These are where the only details that we hold are individuals' personal email addresses. These are the personal data of the individuals concerned, and so we have applied section 40(2) (personal data). Personal data is that which relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data, or from that data and other information which is likely to be in, or to come into, the possession of the requestor. Disclosure of this information would contravene a number of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998, and

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<sup>1</sup> MAT address at the time of opening. MATs do not have to notify us of a change of address.

would be regarded as 'unfair'. By that, we mean the likely expectations of the data subject that his or her information would not be disclosed to others and the effect which disclosure would have on the data subject. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test.

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

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, who were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely,

Ashley Linegar  
**Education and Skills Funding Agency**