



Disclosure Team
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Alison Melville
Postal or email address

data.access@justice.gov.uk

2nd May 2023

Dear Alison,

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 230408005

Thank you for your request dated 20th April 2023 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

“Dear Judicial Office for England and Wales,

Please provide the minutes from the concluding session of the Litigants in Person engagement group that took place on 30th November 2022.”

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that HMCTS holds all of the information that you have requested. However, it is partially exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOIA, because it contains personal data.

For this reason, in the version of the minutes you have requested, we have redacted the names of attendees from external organisations but retained the names of the organisations they represent. We have also redacted the names of HMCTS officials for the same reason, except for the Chairs of the Litigants in Person engagement group. The minutes of the discussion in the meeting have not been redacted.

Section 40(2) and section 40(3A)(a) of the FOIA taken together mean that personal data can only be released if to do so would not contravene any of the principles set out in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Individuals have a clear and strong expectation that their personal data will be held in confidence and not disclosed to the public under the FOIA. Also, although s40 is an absolute exemption, we have considered whether there is a wider public interest in disclosing this personal information, that would override the fundamental rights of those concerned. We have concluded there is no such public interest in this instance.

We believe releasing the requested information into the public domain would be unlawful; the personal information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 40(2).

This is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test under the FOIA.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response.

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Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely

[Colin Moran](#)
(Public User Engagement Lead – HMCTS).