

Ms Varsha Khan

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21 September 2020

Dear Ms Khan

Ref: FOI2020/28441

## Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 17 July 2020, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

*"Please can you send me a copy of the heads of profession government social research update sent out in June which I understand talked about George Floyd being murdered by a police officer. Is this the official government position now or will it wait for a verdict to be given by the court?"*

*I asked the Cabinet Office for this and they said I should ask you."*

Further to our emails of 14, 26 August and 15 September 2020 in which we apologised for the delay in replying, following a search of our records, we can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request, which is attached.

Personal data has been withheld. Section 40(2) of the FOI Act, by virtue of section 40(3A) provides an absolute exemption for third party personal data, where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The first data protection principle requires the disclosure of third party personal data to be lawful, fair and transparent. We believe that releasing personal data would breach the first data protection principle, since it would be unlawful and unfair to release the information.

The document was issued from the Government Social Research (GSR) Heads of Profession to GSR members in response to the death of George Floyd in the USA. The content of the document does not represent an official view from the UK Government. An official verdict will be reached by the US legal system.

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

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

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Email: [foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk)

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

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