



## Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Freedom of Information Team  
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IR2022/12143

11 October 2022

Joseph Lloyd  
[request-878663-c965cf44@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-878663-c965cf44@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Joseph Lloyd,

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 September, in which you requested an internal review of the department's response to your request for information on 14th July. Your previous request was for the following information:

***Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I wish to see the following:***

***1) Full copies of all minutes, agendas, action logs and briefing materials for the meeting between Nadine Dorries and Robbie Gibb held on 02/03/2022.***

***2) Full copies of all minutes, agendas, action logs and briefing materials for the meeting between Nadine Dorries, Tim Davie and Richard Sharpe held on 12/01/2022.***

***3) Full copies of all minutes, agendas, action logs and briefing materials for the meeting between Nadine Dorries, Dawn Airey and Alex Mahon held on 16/03/2022.***

***Please also include any other materials that were handed out or received during the meetings, such as presentations, reports, etc..***

The department responded on 12 September 2022 (our reference FOI2022/09681. You have now requested an internal review, as follows:

***I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's handling of my FOI request 'Nadine Dorries meetings' (FOI2022/09681).***

***A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/nadine\\_dorries\\_meetings](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/nadine_dorries_meetings)***

In order to ensure cases are looked at afresh, internal reviews of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests are carried out in our department by officials unconnected to the handling of the original request. I was therefore asked to conduct the internal review and I present my findings below.



After asking the relevant parties to once again search for information in scope of your initial response, I have been told that we do not have information in scope of part 1 of your request.

I received and reviewed the information in scope of parts 2 and 3 of your request, and I can confirm that the department was warranted to exempt this information under section 36(2)(b)(i), as I believe it '(b)would, or would be likely to, inhibit— (i)the free and frank provision of advice'. Conducting my own public interest test, I would still be in favour of exempting the information from disclosure, with the the main deciding factor being protecting the 'safe space' around Ministers and officials.

I can see that the Freedom of Information officer followed the ICO guidance, and all information that DCMS holds in scope was given permission to be exempt under Section 36 by a Minister of the Crown.

For the reasons stated above, I uphold the department's decision to withhold this information under section 36(2)(b)(i) of the Act.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team  
**Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport**

### **Complaints and comments**

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner's Office have a complaints form which you can utilise to make a complaint. This can be found here:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>.

