



Department  
for Education

Office of the Regional Schools  
Commissioner for the West Midlands  
Department for Education  
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Email: [RSC.WM@education.gov.uk](mailto:RSC.WM@education.gov.uk)

R. Lee

By email: [request-552337-de6c8e84@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-552337-de6c8e84@whatdotheyknow.com)

Reference number: 2019-0011198

Date: 12 April 2019

Dear R. Lee,

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 15/03/2019.

You requested:

*“Under the Freedom of Information Act please can you provide copies of any correspondence from any Birmingham MP or City Councillor concerning the ‘No Outsiders’ programme in Birmingham schools- for the first 3 months of 2019.”*

I am dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

The Department holds some information within the scope of your request. However, I consider that exemptions at sections 36(2)(b)(ii) and 36(2)(c) of the Act apply.

Section 36 of the Act covers information which, if released “would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation, or would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely to otherwise prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs.”

The Act obliges the Department to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days, and a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case. We aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including cases where we need to consider the public interest. In this case, however, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies.

In your case, the Department estimates that it will take an additional 10 days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. It is anticipated that you will receive a full response by 30 April 2019. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me quoting our reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints/review procedure.

Yours sincerely,

**Catherine Smith**

Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner, West Midlands  
Academies and Regional Delivery Directorate