

Deb Williams

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Via email: request-370885-e6b318dc@whatdotheyknow.com

12 December 2016

Ref: FOI2016/23922

Dear Ms Williams

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Nolan Principles

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 15 November 2016.

You asked for the following information:

Nolan Principles for public office holders - selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership

Please provide all information held under the FOIA by the department that confirms that the Nolan Principles are integral to how your staff are required to conduct themselves and if these principles are still in force and effect as the basis of the ethical standards expected of public office holders.

Please also confirm if they are contained within your Constitution etc.

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

Public office holders are required to uphold the highest standards of propriety in the discharge of their duties. The Civil Service Code, the Ministerial Code, and the Special Adviser Code incorporate the Seven Principles of Public Life. These documents are publicly available. To be helpful, I have provided links to these documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-code/the-civil-service-code>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministerial-code>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-advisers-code-of-conduct>

In addition, HM Treasury's propriety and ethics guidance states:

"In matters of propriety and correctness, high standards are essential. These issues have been addressed in the First Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Report) and the Government's response to it (see the Nolan recommendations)."

"Every member of staff at the Treasury is responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with the Civil Service Code and the letter of the law;
- Conducting themselves in accordance with the seven principles of public life set out in the first report of the Nolan Committee "Standards in Public Life". They are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership"

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

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 3/Red, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

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

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.