



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
Government**

Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

T 030 3444 0000

[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

Sean Brawley

Date: **18 July 2019**

Dear Sean Brawley

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 4336268**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 12 July 2019 and processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested: *"Please provide and policy research or papers produced by the Department reviewing the feasibility of pension release for use in housing deposits."*

I can confirm that we hold this information, but I am withholding it as explained below.

This information is exempt from disclosure under section 35(1)(a) of the FOI Act as it relates to the development of government housing policy.

Information falling within this exemption must still be provided however unless it is not in the public interest to do so.

There will always be some general public interest in disclosure to promote transparency and accountability of government Departments. The department recognises that this public interest allows for the scrutiny of the decision-making process and Government policy.

However, the Department must also consider that government needs a safe space to develop ideas and reach decisions away from external interference and distraction. The information you have requested relates to a live policy and disclosure of the information would erode unacceptably the safe space mentioned above. Ministers must feel able to consider the information and advice before them and be able to reach objective, fully-informed decisions without impediment and free from distraction that such information will be made public.

I have decided, on balance, that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this time.

## **Complaints procedure**

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you. (This is called an internal review.) If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within two months of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Knowledge and Information Access Team  
4th Floor SE, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address [casewoxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:casewoxx@xxx.xxx.xx) or use their online form at [ico.org.uk/concerns](http://ico.org.uk/concerns) or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,

MHCLG FOI Team