



Stephanie Allison

By email: request-732328-532a39b3@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2021/04509

24/03/2021

Dear Stephanie Allison

I refer to your request where you asked:

"I would be grateful if you could tell me, of the people awarded honours for their services to the Scotch Whisky Industry, what percentage are male and what percentage are female?"

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information on gender that you requested is partially held by the Cabinet Office. You did not specify a timeframe for your request but I note that diversity data was not collated before 2005.

I consider that the information that is held from after 2005 is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the grounds that it is personal information.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Where a number is very low (less than 5) the information cannot be disclosed as it could potentially identify the individuals involved, especially if combined with other

data, and this would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the Cabinet Office is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information. I also consider that section 21 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies to part of your request. Section 21 of the Act relates to information already accessible to the applicant by other means. The information you request is already in the public domain, as all honour recipients are published within the London Gazette. The reason for their honour is also made public. It would therefore be possible for you to identify individuals who have been honoured for services to the Scotch Whisky Industry.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Rachel Anderson
Head of Freedom of Information
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued. If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B. C.', written in a cursive style.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office