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25 March 2015

Dear Mr Ali ,

REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000
Cabinet Office Internal Review Reference: IR320713
(Original Case Reference: Fol320713)

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2015. You asked for an internal review of our response to your request for information of 24 February 2015. In your request you asked for information concerning the reason Mrs Lewis was awarded an MBE.

I have carefully reviewed the handling of your request and I consider that the exemptions at 37(1)(b) and 40(2) in combination with section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act were properly applied. I believe that the balance of the public interest was fully considered for the reasons set out in our letter of 27 February 2015. I have therefore concluded that I should uphold the decision given in our letter.

I have considered the points you make about interest in this case but, as stated in our letter of 27 February, we have to weigh up the confidentiality of individual honours cases against transparency in the honours process. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest is better served by withholding the information.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request for information you, have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

Roger Smethurst
Deputy Director and Head of Knowledge and Information Management Unit