



Cabinet Office

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70 Whitehall  
London, SW1A 2AS

foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Mathew J Ramsden

By email: [request-702578-9d199135@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-702578-9d199135@whatdotheyknow.com)

FOI Reference: FOI2021/15650  
22/07/2021

Dear Mathew J Ramsden,

I refer to your request where you asked:

*"I refer to the National Archives reference HO 322/1216, entitled Wartime Broadcasting Service (WTBS): communications aspects. The Archives state that the data is being held by the Cabinet Office rather than the Home Office under section 3.4, which allows you to retain the data for continued administrative use or for reasons that it contains sensitive material.*

*As the WTBS no longer exists in effect, the data should no longer be considered sensitive, nor is it maintained for administrative use. I therefore request, pursuant to FOIA that the data referred to at the link below be released.*

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C16562086>

*I refer to the National Archives reference HO 322/1254, entitled Wartime Broadcasting Service (WTBS): routing of WTBS circuits. The Archives state that the data is being held by the Cabinet Office rather than the Home Office under section 3.4, which allows you to retain the data for continued administrative use or for reasons that it contains sensitive material.*

*As the WTBS no longer exists in effect, the data should no longer be considered sensitive, nor is it maintained for administrative use. I therefore request, pursuant to FOIA that the data referred to at the link below be released.*

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C16562124>"

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

The information you requested is exempt under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 22 protects information intended for future publication. It is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours maintaining the exemption at section 22(1) or disclosing the information.

There is a general public interest in favour of release, and the Cabinet Office remains committed to releasing an ever increasing number of records in our annual release. However, the information you have requested is one of many records that is being prepared for transfer to The National Archives. There is a very strong public interest in maintaining established processes once they have been started and it is important that release work being conducted on very many records is not interrupted to accelerate one of the many records. To do so would disrupt the preparation of other records due for release. I have therefore concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption exceeds that of release.

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](mailto: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:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. M.', is written over a faint, light blue rectangular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

FOI Team  
Cabinet Office