



Department  
for Exiting the  
European Union

**Freedom of Information  
Team**

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Mathias Schindler  
Via: request-442339-1385999b@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: DEX001302 Extension

06 August 2018

Dear Mathias Schindler,

I refer to your request, where you asked for:

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According to  
<http://mollymep.org.uk/2017/10/30/government-list-50-secret-studies/>, 58  
studies exist concerning a number of industries and sectors.

A) **[CLARIFIED TO:]** I would hence propose to narrow the scope of part A  
down to information that initiated the creation of the individual studies, such as  
a letter asking or proposing to write or commission a study.

B) In case these studies follow a common style guide, I am requesting these  
style guides as well as templates and formatting tools as well as any kind of  
artwork (in a broader sense) concerning these studies.

C) I am requesting the information the government holds concerning the  
selection process for these studies and any information whenever a sector or  
industry was discarded, merged, renamed or redefined within the study  
drafting process. **[Where this is limited to the information held by the most  
relevant individual in DExEU].**

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I can confirm that the Department for Exiting the EU (DExEU) holds information relevant  
to your request, but I am writing to advise you that I must extend the time limit for our  
response.

We still require further time to consider the public interest test under the following  
exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act"):

- Section 35(1)(a), which exempts information if it relates to: the formulation or  
development of government policy.

We have not yet reached a decision on whether the balance of the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

By virtue of section 10(3), when public authorities have to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to a request, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances. We wish to fully consider where the balance of the public interest lies in relation to your request.

I hope to let you have a response within a further 20 working days of 06 August 2018. If I can reply before that date, I shall do so. If I need more time to consider the balance of the public interest, I shall write again to let you know.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI team. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

**FOI Team**  
**Department for Exiting the EU (DExEU)**