

Social Work England
Data Protection and
Information Governance
1 North Bank
Blonk Street
Sheffield
S3 8JY
Tel: 0808 196 2274

By email

26 March 2020

Reference – IR-054

Dear A. Marfo,

We are sorry that you are not satisfied with our response.

Under the Freedom of Information Act Section 8(1)(b), a request must include enough of the requestor's name to make them identifiable. This is a requirement of a valid Freedom of Information request. This does not require public authorities to provide the names of staff members when responding to a request for this information. We must comply with the Data Protection Act with regards to the releasing of names of our employees.

As explained in our previous response, in accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), we are not obliged to provide the names of more junior members of staff, which you have requested. This is personal data and is exempt from disclosure. It may be that a more junior member of staff makes a decision to provide this themselves, for example as part of an email signature. However, the decision as to whether we would disclose that information as part of a Freedom of Information request depends on a balance of factors; seniority is a key consideration. The link to the ICO guidance again for reference is:

https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1187/section_40_requests_for_personal_data_about_employees.pdf

We have also explained that we do not hold the other information you have requested, and that your local authority may be better placed to provide the information you are looking for. We consider that your request has now been responded to in full.

If you wish to do so, you are entitled to ask the Information Commissioner to assess whether we have complied with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. You can contact them using the details below:

Online:

<https://ico.org.uk/>

Post:

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

Kind regards,

Greg Lawton

Head of Data Protection and Information Governance

1 North Bank, Blonk Street, Sheffield, S3 8JY