

REFERENCE: FOI/21/77

25 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 26th April 2021 in which you made a request for the following information from the Northern Ireland Office:

I would like to know how many times Brandon Lewis visited his constituency of Great Yarmouth between February 13, 2020, and the end of that month according to his ministerial diary.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We are withholding this information under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of information Act. The information you request is of a personal nature relating to the Secretary of State's visits to his constituency, where he also lives. 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 set out in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene data protection principle (a), which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the Northern Ireland Office is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

If you believe this reply is not in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request a review you should do so in writing stating the reasons.



If following an internal review you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask him to investigate whether the NIO has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at www.ico.org.uk

If you wish to discuss this please contact the Freedom of Information Team using the contact details provided at the top of the first page. Please remember to quote your reference in any correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Manager

