



Department for Transport

Transparency-Spend
Financial Control
Group Finance
Department for Transport
4th Floor, Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Rd
London SW1P 4DR
E-mail: Transparency-Spend@dft.gsi.gov.uk
Our ref: F0016303

Date: 01 August 2018

Helen McNally

[By email: request-499397-851cd330@whatdotheyknow.com]

Dear Miss Helen McNally

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST – F0016303

Thank you for your information request of 20th July 2018. You requested the following information:

All transactions over £25,000 for January and February 2018 from April 2018 to a month in arrears from the date at which you publish in response to this request.

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under Section 21 of the FOI Act, we are not required to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you. All transactions over £25,000 for January to May 2018 are now published on gov.uk. Please see the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dft-departmental-spending-over-25000>

The January and February 2018 data was published on 5 April 2018, March 2018 data was published on 28 June 2018 and the April and May 2018 data was published on 26 July 2018.

With regards to the June and July 2018 data, this information is being withheld in reliance on the exemption at Section 22(1) of the FOI Act because at the time of your request we have a clear intention of publishing it at a future date.

As the exemption is qualified, we are required to weigh the public interest arguments for and against disclosure at this time.

There is a broad public interest in the Government's work and disclosure would be consistent with the Government's wider transparency agenda. This makes the Government more accountable to the electorate and increases trust in the democratic process.

However, it is an important principle that public authorities should be able to publish information in a manner, form and timing of their own choosing. DfT officials' time would be better spent compiling, verifying and preparing information for publication so that everyone gets to see the report at the same time, as opposed to dealing with individual requests. The additional time sought by the Department prior to publication is necessary to enable the proper preparation of the records.

On balance, the public interest arguments in continuing to withhold the information until final publication outweighs that for disclosure.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. A copy of this response and the information provided may now be published on the www.gov.uk web-site, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please find below details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

Transparency-Spend

Transparency-Spend@dft.gsi.gov.uk

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Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, 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