



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Department for Business, Energy &
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FOI2018/16807

6 August 2018

Helen McNally
request-499393-47c50d88@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Helen McNally,

Thank you for your email of 20 July where you requested the following information:

Dear Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,

Thank you for publishing your spend data here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/beis-spending-over-25000>. However, I notice that you haven't published any spending data since September 2017.

I'd like to make a request under the Freedom of Information act for all transactions over £25,000 from October 2017 to a month in arrears from the date at which you publish in response to this request. Please provide the data in a machine readable format (preferably csv). As a minimum, please make sure to include the date, value and recipient of each transaction. Please also provide details on the procurement category of each transaction if you have it.

Your team may also be interested in the guidance on producing spending data:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-publishing-spend-over-25000>.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

We can confirm that the Department holds the information requested. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the Act because the information is intended for publication at a future date.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption subject to the public interest test.

There is a public interest in transparency and accountability, in good decision-making by public bodies, in upholding standards of integrity, and in securing the best use of public resources. Transactions over £25,000 are listed in monthly finance and Government Procurement Card

(GPC) spend. We have recently reviewed the process for publishing this data in order to protect its accuracy and integrity.

We intend to start publishing this data in the autumn on the data.gov.uk website:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication_filter_option=transparency-data&topics%5B%5D=all&departments%5B%5D=department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy&official_document_status=all&world_locations%5B%5D=all&from_date=&to_date

However, given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing the information, we consider that the best use of public resources is in pulling this information together, ensuring it is accurate and published in a consistent and comprehensive format and in accordance with the established publishing procedure, rather than being released in a piecemeal fashion.

Having considered the public interest, we consider that the public interest in disclosing this information is outweighed by the public interest considerations in favour of withholding the information. The Department's decision is therefore to withhold the information until it is ready for publication in the autumn.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
Email: FOI.Requests@beis.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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

Yours sincerely,

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy