



Cabinet Office

1 Horse Guards Road
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Kieren Williams

By email: request-708515-390603bd@whatdotheyknow.com

19 January 2022

Dear Kieren Williams,

Re: ICO complaint reference IC-96419-W3T8

I write in reference to the above complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), which relates to your Freedom of Information request made to the Cabinet Office on 24 November 2020 (FOI2020/20364). You originally requested:

"... the specific and complete terms of reference for Priti Patel's bullying enquiry"

On 22 January 2021 the Cabinet Office replied and withheld the information in scope of your request on the basis that section 31(1)(g) by virtue of section 31(2)(b) (Law Enforcement exemption - the purpose of ascertaining whether any person is responsible for any conduct which is improper) applied to the information that you requested and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighed that in favour of disclosure.

The Cabinet Office has reconsidered the matter and the material in scope of your request. We are now able to disclose some information to you which can be found at the annex to this letter. We maintain that Section 31(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act applies to the limited remaining material found in scope of your request for the reasons set out to you in our letter of 22 January 2021. This is because the full disclosure would be likely to prejudice the ability of the Cabinet Office to conduct effective investigations of ministerial conduct, and there is a clear public interest in there being confidence in these investigative processes.

We hope you find this information useful. A copy of this letter will be provided to the ICO for their information.

Yours sincerely

Cabinet Office FOI Team

E FOI-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Annex

Terms of Reference

Objective

To establish, as far as possible, the facts relating to the reported allegations about the Home Secretary's conduct in her current role.

Specific lines of enquiry

- 1) Concerns raised by Home Office officials about the behaviour of the Home Secretary and the impact of that behaviour.

[Information withheld under Section 31]

Terms of Reference

Objective

To establish, as far as possible, the facts relating to the concerns raised about the Home Secretary's conduct in her previous role as Secretary of State for International Development.

Specific lines of enquiry

- A) Understand the concerns raised by DfID about the behaviour of the then Secretary of State and the impact of that behaviour;

[Information withheld under Section 31]