

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

May 3, 2018

**Ellene Yvonne**  
**via the FOI website**

Dear Ellene Yvonne,

regarding your Freedom of Information request titled "bollocks" we collected the following information:

"Bollocks" is a word of Middle English origin, meaning "testicles". The word is often used figuratively in colloquial British English and Hiberno-English as a noun to mean "nonsense", an expletive following a minor accident or misfortune, or an adjective to mean "poor quality" or "useless". Similarly, common phrases like "Bollocks to this!" and "That's a load of old bollocks" generally indicate contempt for a certain task, subject or opinion. Conversely, the word also figures in idiomatic phrases such as "the dog's bollocks" or more simply "the bollocks" (as opposed to just "bollocks"), which will refer to something which is admired, approved of or well-respected.

Sincerely,

John Smith  
**FOI Manager**