



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
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Our reference:

FOI2025/01181

11 August 2025

Our response to your freedom of information request

Your request

On 11 July you asked us to provide the following information:

Thank you for your response.

To bring my request within the FOIA cost limit, I would like to refine it as follows:

Please provide copies of all correspondence (including but not limited to emails, letters, meeting minutes, briefings, attachments, and any related internal communications) between:

- Ministers and special advisers at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology,

and

- The organisation Sex Matters (or its representatives), covering the past 12 months from the date of this refined request.

This refined request explicitly excludes correspondence involving civil servants, including Senior Civil Servants, to reduce the scope and cost of the search.

Please let me know if further clarification would assist in processing this request.

We have responded to your request for recorded information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Our response

We can confirm that the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (the department) does hold information in scope of your request.

Please find attached to this response Annex A – Annex Z. Some information has been withheld under section 40 (personal information) of the FOIA, or because it is not in scope of the request.

Section 40(2): Personal data of third parties

[Some OR all] of the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) because of the condition at section 40(3A) of the FOIA.

Section 40(2) and (40(3A) state:

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if-

(a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and

(b) the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.

(3A) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act-

(a) would contravene any of the data protection principles, or

(b) would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

The department has obligations under data protection legislation, and in law generally, to protect personal data. This exempts personal data from release if disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. Release would breach the first data protection principle since it would be unlawful and unfair to disclose the information.

As section 40 is an absolute exemption, the department is not required to carry out a public interest test.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. You can ask us to review our response by completing our online form to [request an internal review](#) on GOV.UK.

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

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the [Information Commissioners Office](#) (ICO).

You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review through the ICO website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints.

Your information

Our [privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal information which you provide to us. Our [personal information charter](#) sets out the standards you can expect from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology when we collect, hold or use your personal information.

Yours sincerely,

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology