

Room G39, 1 Horse Guards Road London, SW1A 2HQ foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

By email:		

FOI reference: FOI2025/05753

12 June 2025

Dear

We refer to your request where you asked:

"By email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Dear FOI team,

I wish to make six different Freedom of Information Act requests. For your administrative convenience, I am placing them in the same letter.

\*Request #1\*

My request relates to this answer to a Parliamentary Question.

\*Q: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2025, to Question 20957 on Government departments: communication and public consultation, if she will list the (a) Department, (b) theme and c) estimated saving of each of the campaigns (i) that were cancelled, (ii) continuing with reduced budgets and (iii) aiming to reduce their expenditure by 25%.\*

\*A: There are currently no plans to publish this list in detail. The comprehensive communications Spending Review identified 39 campaigns that were cancelled, 46 campaigns continuing with reduced budgets and 46 campaigns aiming to reduce their expenditure by 25%. The combined savings from these measures total £85 million in 2024-25 and up to £96 million in 2025-26.\*

\*https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-01-22/25685 <a href="https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-01-22/25685">https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-01-22/25685</a>

Please provide the information requested in that question. The information will not be commercially confidential, as the spending has been curtailed or cancelled, and the information is only being requested at a high level, not a granular one. Disclosure will be in the public interest as it relates to the spending of taxpayers' money."

We are writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information you requested is <u>held</u> by the Cabinet Office.

Please see the document attached for the breakdown of campaigns (i) that were cancelled, (ii) continuing with reduced budgets and (iii) aiming to reduce their expenditure by 25% requested.

It is worth noting that the information differs from what was previously stated in the answer to PQ 20957. This information was accurate at the time of publishing.

Please note that some information in the document is redacted as it is exempt under section 27(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 27 exempts information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and any other State, the interests of the United Kingdom abroad, or the promotion or protection by the United Kingdom of its interests abroad.

Section 27 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours releasing or withholding this material. The Cabinet Office recognises there is a general public interest in openness in public affairs in order to ensure that the public are able to scrutinise the manner in which public authorities reach important decisions. This makes for greater accountability, increases public confidence in government decision-making and helps to encourage greater public engagement with political life. The Cabinet Office also recognises that there is a general public interest in being able to evaluate the foreign policy of the government. I have weighed these public interests against a strong public interest in the United Kingdom being able successfully to pursue our national interests. We are more likely to do so if we conform to the conventions of international behaviour, avoid giving offence to other nations and retain the trust of our international partners. Taking into account all the circumstances of this case,

I have concluded that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Head of Freedom of Information Cabinet Office 1 Horse Guards Road London SW1A 2HQ

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/

The Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

John

FOI Team
Cabinet Office