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11/05/2018

Dear GAVIN FREEGUARD

I refer to your requests where you asked:

"I would like to make the following individual requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act:

2017 to date

- A. A list of all Inter-Ministerial Groups convened since 8 June 2017 (to 19 April 2018), including the dates of their formation and expiration
- B. The terms of reference of all Inter-Ministerial Groups convened since 8 June 2017 (to 19 April 2018)
- C. The membership of all Inter-Ministerial Groups convened since 8 June 2017 (to 19 April 2018).

2015 to 2017

- D. A list of all Inter-Ministerial Groups convened between 7 May 2015 and 7 June 2017, including the dates of their formation and expiration
- E. The terms of reference of all Inter-Ministerial Groups convened since 7 May 2015 and 7 June 2017
- F. The membership of all Inter-Ministerial Groups convened since 7 May 2015 and 7 June 2017.

2010 to 2015

- G. A list of all Inter-Ministerial Groups convened between 6 May 2010 and 6 May 2015, including the dates of their formation and expiration
- H. The terms of reference of all Inter-Ministerial Groups convened between 6 May 2010 and 6 May 2015
- I. The membership of all Inter-Ministerial Groups convened between 6 May 2010 and 6 May 2015."

I must inform you that the Cabinet Office is unable to comply with your request. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act relieves public authorities of the duty to comply with a request for information if the cost of dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The reason that your request exceeds the cost limit is that relevant information is likely to be contained in very many files. Searching all those that might contain relevant information to

determine whether the Cabinet Office holds any information relevant to your request will exceed the appropriate limit laid down in the regulations. If you wish, you may refine your request in order to bring the cost of determining whether the Cabinet Office holds relevant information, locating, retrieving and extracting it, below the appropriate limit. The period covered by your request is very long and one way to refine it would be to narrow the period it covers. I must also inform you that if the Cabinet Office does hold any information, it may be subject to one or more of the exemptions contained in the Freedom of Information Act.

I understand that you have split your request into three separate periods. However, Regulation 5 of The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations, 2004 (SI 2004 No. 3244), made under Section 12(4) of the Freedom of Information Act permits public authorities to aggregate two or more requests when calculating the cost of complying with requests in certain circumstances. These circumstances are where the requests are received from the same individual or from different individuals who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign; where the requests relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information; and where those requests are received within any period of sixty consecutive working days.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI team. Please remember to quote the reference numbers above in any future communications.

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:

Sharon Carter  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

email: [foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto: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.

Yours sincerely

**FOI team**  
**Cabinet Office**