



4 June 2010

Information Rights Unit

Martin Rosenbaum
Executive Producer, Radio
BBC Political Programmes
6th floor, 4 Whitehall
London SW1A 2JQ

Tel: 020 7 270 4550
Fax: 020 7 270 4861

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

By email: martin.rosenbaum@bbc.co.uk

informationrights@hm-treasury.gov.uk

Ref: 10/384

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: COINCS Public Spending data

Thank you for your enquiry dated 12 May requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In substance this replicates a previous request of yours that was refused and about which you have complained to the Information Commissioner.

2. Your request was for the complete set of COINCS data bases.
3. You will now see the Prime Minister's announcement this week that the government is to publish historic COINCS data this month. As a start, we have this morning released COINCS data for 2009-10 and 2008-09.
4. The information is hosted at www.data.gov.uk. Commentary is also provided and a view to assisting potential users of the data. We hope this will give you a better understanding of the factors that influenced the previous decision to withhold all the information under the exemption at section 36(2)(c) of the Act. You should of course have regard to the terms and conditions for use of the data; these are set out on the website.
5. Previously, we had a going on and our 2007-08 will be added to the disclosure by 15 June. We are proceeding with all due haste to resolve the associated practical issues. All information due to be published will now be exempt under section 22 of the Act (information intended for future publication) - and in this case there is no option available to publish earlier than it is published.
6. In-year and future years data in response to your previous request, this is information that is covered by the primary information exemption at section 34(1)(a) of the Act, as well as section 2 for commercially sensitive information relating to national defence and security. Consideration remains as to whether or not our conclusion that the exemption ought to be maintained in this case is correct. Published data sets will however be updated regularly and will include data as it becomes available for comparison purposes. COINCS data for 2010-11 will be published in June 2011 once the full year is completed.
7. Some data for 2009-10 and prior years has been withheld because of national security (s.23(1)) or defence (s.20(1)(b)). For the present, information relating to the core of Government accounts is

¹ <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/statements/transparent/09/letter.aspx>

also be included in relation to our information. However, we expect that this will be published in the next few days. The information was published on 10/10/2013.

Our detailed documents in relation to the information were withheld in respect of our response to you at internal review stage in relation to your prior request – copy attached for ease.

In answer to your copy of this letter to the Information Commissioner's Office because of the content of your request.

It would be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.



Paul Moran
Information Rights Unit

You have the right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 if you are not happy with this reply. You may contact a new unit writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/32, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ. Email: FOI@hm-treasury.gov.uk

An appeal request must be made within 7 months of the date of this letter. It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply you are dissatisfied with.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. You may also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner if you are not satisfied with the outcome of the complaint procedure provided by the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at the Information Commissioner's Office, 1 Wilton House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

