

Owen Boswarva
By email: owen.boswarva@gmail.com

FOI reference: FOI2024/16586

13 March 2025

Dear Owen Boswarva

We refer to your request where you asked:

"I understand from a CDDO blog post published in May 2024 (under the previous Government) that the Cabinet Office has launched a data strategy called 'Better Data for a Better Cabinet Office':

<https://cddo.blog.gov.uk/2024/05/08/transforming-for-a-digital-future-latest-update>

As far as I can see, the data strategy has not been made public.

Please provide me with a copy of the Cabinet Office's data strategy, along with any annexes or appendices."

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 held by the Cabinet Office.

As requested, attached is a PDF version of the Cabinet Office's data strategy (redacted) dated July 2023. There are no annexes or appendices.

Please note that some of the information you have requested is exempt under section 24(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 24 exempts information from disclosure if its exemption is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Section 24 is a qualified exemption and we have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours releasing or withholding this information. There is a general public interest in disclosure of information and we recognise that openness in government may increase public trust in and engagement with the government. There is a definite public interest in members of the public being able to understand matters related to national security. We have weighed these public interests against a very strong public interest in safeguarding national security. It is important that this sensitive information is protected, as disclosure of information would damage national security. This interest could only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Taking into account all the circumstances of this case, we have determined that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information.

Some information you have requested is also exempt under section 31(1)(a)(b) and (g) of the Freedom of Information Act. The relevant parts of section 31 exempt information if its disclosure would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders or the exercise by any public authority of its functions for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person has failed to comply with the law. The information contains details about the detection and prevention of crime which would assist criminals to plan and execute criminal acts and to avoid detection. Disclosure would thus make the prevention of certain crimes more difficult and reduce the effectiveness of the police service in detecting the perpetrators.

The exemption in section 31 is a qualified exemption and we have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours releasing or withholding this information. There is a general public interest in disclosure of information and we recognise that openness in government may increase public trust in and engagement with the government. We also recognise a public interest in assuring the public that effective arrangements are in place for the prevention and detection of crime. We have weighed these public interests against a strong public interest in the prevention and detection of crime. It is contrary to this public interest to disclose information which would facilitate the commission of crime or hinder its detection. Taking into account all the circumstances of this case, we 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. K.', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office