



Cabinet Office

Room 401
70 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2AS

foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Wynne Jones

By email: cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru

FOI Reference: FOI2021/16675

3 September 2021

Dear Wynne Jones

We refer to your request where you asked:

"I would be grateful if you could arrange to provide me with details of regulations and / or guidance currently in place at D H S C regarding:

- *Ministerial disclosure of conflict of interest, and*
- *Senior scientific / medical advisor disclosure of conflict of interest."*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is partially held by the Cabinet Office. With regards to the first part of your request regarding the disclosure of interests by Ministers, this information is being withheld under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act. This relates to information that is readily accessible by other means as set out below. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and so is not subject to a public interest test.

The Ministerial Code, published by the Prime Minister in August 2019, sets out at Section 7 the process by which Ministers should declare and manage their private interests. It also provides that a statement covering relevant Ministers' interests will be published twice yearly. Section 8.14 of the Code also sets out expectations that Departments will publish details of Ministers' meetings on a quarterly basis. You can read the full Ministerial Code here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministerial-code>

With regards to the second part of your request for the process of recording the disclosure of interests by Senior Scientific and Medical Advisers, this information is not held by the Cabinet Office. I would recommend that you direct your request to the Department of Health and Social Care, and the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy respectively.

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:

Appeals and Complaints
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

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:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B. C.', written in a cursive style.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office