

Dear Home Office FOI team,

Please find attached a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This request concerns the **Home Office's handling of FOI2025/14526**, and specifically the decision communicated in the response **received on 2 December 2025**, which was **dated 24 November 2025**, refusing that request under **section 12(2) FOIA**.

For clarity, the attached request is **not a refinement** of FOI2025/14526 and does not seek the same information. It concerns only the **search parameters, internal reasoning, recorded decision-making, and process steps** that led to the section 12 refusal.

The attached FOI therefore asks the department to provide:

- search terms and parameters,
- systems and repositories searched,
- teams or directorates consulted,
- the recorded rationale for the 24-hour estimate,
- any sampling or proportionality checks,
- section 16 "advice and assistance" considerations,
- the grade or role of the decision-maker,
- and any recorded explanation for why the procedural questions raised in my follow-up of 2 December were not addressed.

I would be grateful for confirmation of receipt and for a response within the statutory timeframe.

Yours sincerely

Pete Lindsay

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Dear Home Office FOI Team,

Please treat this as a request for information under the **Freedom of Information Act 2000**.

This request concerns the Home Office's handling of **FOI2025/14526**, and in particular the decision communicated in the response **received on 2 December 2025**, which was **dated 24 November 2025**, refusing that request under **section 12(2) FOIA**.

For the avoidance of doubt, this request is **not** a refinement or continuation of FOI2025/14526. It concerns **process only**.

I request the following information **created, received, or in use during the handling and determination of FOI2025/14526**:

1. Search terms and search parameters

- (a) all search terms, keywords, Boolean strings, filters, or parameters used to identify information potentially in scope of FOI2025/14526;
- (b) any guidance, search instructions, or parameters issued to directorates, units, or individuals asked to assist.

If no search terms or parameters were recorded, please confirm explicitly.

2. Systems and repositories searched

- (a) the names of all Home Office systems, databases, repositories, shared drives, record systems, correspondence trackers, triage tools, or document-management platforms searched;
- (b) any systems considered but not searched, with recorded reasons.

If no list exists, please confirm explicitly.

3. Teams, directorates, and business units consulted

- (a) the names of all units, teams, directorates, or roles consulted;
- (b) any recorded instructions issued to those units;
- (c) any responses or summaries returned.

If no internal consultations were undertaken, please confirm explicitly.

4. Workload and time-estimate calculations

Please provide any recorded information explaining:

- (a) how the Home Office calculated that determining whether information was held would exceed the 24-hour limit;
- (b) the basis for the estimate;
- (c) any internal notes, case-handling memos, or emails supporting the section 12 decision.

If no recorded rationale exists, please confirm explicitly.

5. Sampling and proportionality checks

- (a) any sampling, high-level search, test search, or proportionality check undertaken;
- (b) any recorded reasoning for not undertaking such steps.

If none took place, please confirm explicitly.

6. Section 16 “advice and assistance” considerations

- (a) any recorded information showing how section 16 duties were considered;
- (b) any discussions of refinement or narrowing;
- (c) any drafts, internal advice, or alternative search strategies considered.

If no such considerations were recorded, please confirm explicitly.

7. Decision-maker(s)

- (a) the grade or role of the official who determined the section 12 refusal;
- (b) any internal notes recording the decision;
- (c) any review or approval by senior staff.

If no such record exists, please confirm explicitly.

8. Application of DHSC observer-status clarification

- (a) any recorded information showing whether DHSC’s observer-status clarification was considered when determining the scope of searches;
- (b) whether it was considered when estimating cost.

If no such recorded information exists, please confirm explicitly.

9. Recorded rationale for not addressing the 2 December 2025 follow-up

Please provide any recorded information explaining why none of the procedural questions raised in my follow-up message of **2 December 2025** were addressed.

If no such recorded information exists, please confirm explicitly.

Exemptions

If relying on any exemption, please identify the exemption(s), provide the recorded reasoning, provide the outcome of any public-interest test, and indicate whether partial disclosure is possible.

Yours sincerely

Pete Lindsay

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