

Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham B5 4UA
21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3HF

By email

29 July 2016

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) -Request For Information

Reference: FOI 87072016

Dear 

Thank you for your email in which you request information concerning Ofwat GPC spend below £500 for 2014-2015 & 2015-2016.

Ofwat confirms it does hold some of the information requested.

Please see the attached datasets for the financial years requested 2014-2015 & 2015-2016.

In your request you asked for position of the card holder. Unfortunately, the reports do not contain the position of the card holder, only the names of the cardholder for a particular transaction.

Ofwat considers the cardholder names to be exempt from disclosure under Section 40 of the FOIA, in relation to personal data.

This exemption applies because Ofwat considers that it would be a breach of the Data Protection Principles to disclose personal data of staff below that of Senior Management level. In accordance with Principle 1 of the Data Protection Act (DPA), personal data should be collected fairly and lawfully and meet a condition in schedule 2 of the DPA. We feel that disclosure of staff details below Senior Management level therefore would breach this principle.

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Ofwat considers that to amend the reports to include card holder positions would fall outside of the scope of the Act and even if we had the capacity to undertake this exercise, we have estimated that the cost of this would exceed exceeds the appropriate limit. Further information regarding our fees notice can be found on our website [here](#).

GPC data spend by Ofwat's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Executive Board members are contained within individuals voluntary disclosure of expenses. Some of the information up until Quarter 2 2014-2015 period can be found on our website [here](#). Ofwat is currently in the process of compiling expenditure since Quarter 2 until the end of Quarter 1 2016. Ofwat considers this information is currently exempt from disclosure. The exemption applied is Section 22, Information Intended for Future Publication.

This exemption applies because the compilation exercise is not yet complete and those figures are not currently available for publication. We intend to have this data available for publishing in early September and we will write to inform you of how the information can be accessed and advise you if any information is withheld. If any information is withheld we will also inform you of any relevant exemption at that time and for what reason.

Public Interest Test

As this information is a Qualified Exemption it is subject to a public interest test.

Ofwat recognises that the data in relation to senior staff expenses is clearly in the public interest, which is why we proactively publish this data. As we have already established plans to publish the latest information on senior staff GPC expenses, in accordance with Section 22, we are not in a position to disclose that information prior to the proposed schedule, as we do not have the resources to complete the necessary process. Ofwat would need to employ further resources on a temporary basis in order to complete ahead of schedule at a cost to the public and Ofwat does not feel this is in the public interest.

We therefore deem this exemption engaged.

If you have any queries or concerns with regard to the content of this email or in the data provided, please do contact me, quoting the reference number.

Freedom of Information/EIR Provide the Information

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, please contact:

Programme and Project Management Office

Ofwat

Centre City Tower

7 Hill Street

Birmingham B5 4UA

mailbox@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not happy with the outcome of that review you can ask the Information Commissioner's Office to consider your complaint. Generally, the ICO will not make a decision unless you have exhausted Ofwat's complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/>

or

The Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Yours sincerely,

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