

The exceptions applied in this instance are:

Information has been withheld under Regulation 10(4)(e) (Internal Communications). This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in releasing the information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, this is outweighed on the greater public interest in allowing a private space for officials and ministers to communicate internally confidential information and advice in relation to the development of any given policy.

A small amount of information has been withheld under regulation 10(5)(f) (third party interests). This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in releasing the information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, disclosure of this commercially sensitive information would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the confidentiality of commercial information provided by a third party.

Finally, Some information has been redacted under Regulation 11 (Personal Data) as it contains personal information and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and in Section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exception is not subject to the 'public interest test'.