

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 14 March 2023

**Public Authority:** Home Office  
**Address:** 2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

#### **Decision (including any steps ordered)**

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1. The complainant requested information from the Home Office relating to its "Desistance and Disengagement Programme". The Home Office refused to provide the requested information, citing sections 24(1) (National security) and 40(2) (Personal information) of FOIA.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the Home Office was entitled to rely on section 24(1) to withhold the requested information.
3. The Commissioner requires no steps to be taken as a result of this decision.

#### **Request and response**

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4. On 8 January 2022, the complainant wrote to the Home Office and requested information in the following terms:  

"As of 31.12.21. how many people on the DPP were recorded as holding Islamist views.

As of 31.12.21. how many people on the DPP were recorded as holding white supremacist views".
5. The request was made using 'whatdotheyknow'.
6. The Home Office responded on 21 January 2022. It refused to provide the requested information, citing sections 40(2) (personal information) and 24(1) (national security) of FOIA.

7. The Home Office maintained that position following an internal review.
8. The complainant disputes that the requested information is personal information. He also disagrees that section 24 applies and considers that, if it is engaged, the public interest favours disclosure.
9. This notice explains why the Commissioner is satisfied that the Home Office was entitled to withhold the requested information by virtue of section 24(1).

## **Reasons for decision**

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10. The Commissioner has previously considered a similar request for information from the same complainant. The decision notice in that case, case reference IC-193484-K3V4, was issued on 8 February 2023<sup>1</sup>.
11. The Commissioner's decision in that case was that the Home Office correctly applied section 24(1) of FOIA and that the balance of the public interest favoured withholding the information.
12. Having considered all the factors applicable to this case, the Commissioner is satisfied that the similarity between this case and IC-193484-K3V4 is such that he is able to reach the same decision about disclosure without the need for further analysis.
13. In light of the above, the Commissioner's decision is that the Home Office was entitled to rely on section 24(1) of FOIA to refuse to disclose the withheld information.

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<sup>1</sup> [ic-193484-k3v4.pdf \(ico.org.uk\)](https://www.ico.org.uk/casesandupdates/cases/193484-k3v4)

## Right of appeal

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14. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)  
GRC & GRP Tribunals,  
PO Box 9300,  
LEICESTER,  
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963  
Fax: 0870 739 5836  
Email: [grc@justice.gov.uk](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

15. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
16. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Signed .....**

**Laura Tomkinson**  
**Group Manager**  
**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
**Cheshire**  
**SK9 5AF**