

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Decision notice

Date: 30 January 2024

Public Authority: Address: Department for Work and Pensions Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

Decision (including any steps ordered)

- 1. The complainant has requested information regarding the Infected Blood compensation scheme.
- 2. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) disclosed a small amount of information but withheld the majority of the requested information. DWP redacted some of the information under section 35(1)(a), formulation or development of government policy, and the remaining information under section 36(2)(b)(i),(ii) & (c), prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.
- The Commissioner's decision is that the Department for Work and Pensions is entitled to rely on sections 35(1)(a) and 36(2)(b)(i), (ii) & (c) to withhold this information.
- 4. The Commissioner does not require further steps.

Request and response

5. On 2 June 2023, the complainant wrote to DWP and requested information in the following terms:



"Please provide copies of all correspondence relating to Infected Blood Compensation sent to or received by the below persons (including any attachments) during the period 4th January 2023 – 31st March 2023.

Permanent Secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions"

- 6. DWP provided its response on 29 June 2023 and confirmed that it held information falling within the scope of the request. DWP provided the complainant with one redacted document, confirmed it was withholding nine documents and provided an extract from a document which referenced the Infected Blood Scandal but otherwise did not fall within the scope of the request.
- 7. DWP confirmed that it was withholding information on the basis of the following exemptions:
 - Section 35(1)(a) formulation or development of government policy
 - Section 36(2)(b)(i), (ii) & (c) prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs
 - Section 40(2) personal data
- 8. The complainant requested an internal review of the handling of their request for information. They confirmed that they did not dispute the redaction of personal data or internal email addresses but did wish to challenge the application of sections 35 and 36.
- 9. DWP provided the outcome of its internal review on 3 August 2023 and upheld its original response.

Scope of the case

- The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 3 August 2023 to complain about the way their request for information had been handled. Specifically they disputed that DWP was entitled to rely on section 35(1)(a) and 36 to withhold the requested information.
- 11. The Commissioner explained to the complainant that as they had confirmed in their request for internal review that they did not dispute the use of section 40(2) to redact personal data or the application of section 36(2)(c) to withhold internal emails, he would not investigate the redaction of this information. The complainant did not dispute this position.



- 12. The Commissioner therefore considers that the scope of this case is to determine whether DWP is entitled to rely on the following exemptions to withhold the disputed information:
 - Section 35(1)(a)
 - Section 36(2)(b)(i)
 - Section 36(2)(b)(ii)
 - Section 36(2)(c) where the information is not an internal email address.

Reasons for decision

Section 35: Formulation or development of government policy

13. Section 35(1)(a) of FOIA states that:

"Information held by a government department or by the Welsh Assembly Government is exempt information if it relates to –

- (a) the formulation or development of government policy"
- 14. Section 35 is a class-based exemption therefore if information falls within the description of a particular sub-section of 35(1) then this information will be exempt, there is no need for the public authority to demonstrate prejudice to these purposes.
- 15. The Commissioner takes the view that the 'formulation' of policy comprises the early stages of the policy process where options are generated and sorted, risks are identified, consultation occurs and recommendations/submissions are put to a Minister or decision makers.
- 16. 'Development' may go beyond this stage to the process involved in improving or altering existing policy, such as piloting, monitoring, reviewing, analysing or recording the effect of existing policy.
- 17. Whether information is related to the formulation or development of government policy is a judgement that needs to be made on a case by case basis, focussing on the content of the information in question and its context.
- 18. The Commissioner considers that the following factors will be key indicators of the formulation or development of government policy;



- the final decision will be made by Cabinet or the relevant minister;
- the Government intends to achieve a particular outcome of change in the real world;
- the consequences of the decision will be wide-ranging.
- 19. Although 'relates to' is given a wide interpretation, as the Court of Appeal noted in Department for Health v The Information Commissioner and Mr Simon Lewis [2017] EWCA Civ 374, of the First Tier Tribunal's findings in that matter, the phrase "should not be read with uncritical liberalism as extending to the furthest stretch of its indeterminacy but instead must be read in a more limited sense so as to provide an intelligible boundary, suitable to the statutory context" and that a "mere incidental connection between the information and a matter specified in a subparagraph of s.35(1) would not bring the exemption into play; it is the content of the information that must relate to the matter specified in the sub-paragraph".
- 20. Therefore there must be a clear and tangible relationship between the content of the information withheld under this exemption and the process that is being protected (ie the formulation or development of policy).
- 21. The Commissioner's guidance on section 35(1)(a) sets out that information does not need to have been created as part of the formulation or development of government policy. Information may 'relate to' the formulation or development of government policy due to its original purpose when created, or its later use, or its subject matter.
- 22. The exemption is not limited to information that contains policy options, advice or decisions. Pre-existing information about the history or factual background of a policy issue is also covered.

The complainant's arguments

23. The complainant disputed that the requested information related to the formulation or development of government policy. The complainant cited the Commissioner's guidance which states "the exemption does not cover information relating purely to the application or implementation of established policy. It is therefore important to identify where policy formulation or development ends and implementation begins".



- 24. The complainant stated that the Government had already accepted the moral case for compensation¹ and had already paid £100,000 in interim compensation payments to those affected. They therefore considered that it was incorrect to assert that the formulation of policy relates to the principle of Infected Blood compensation itself. The complainant considered that it was far more likely that the information requested refers to "the application or implementation of established policy". The complainant stated that the information likely relates to what the Paymaster General referred to in the House of Commons as "taking forward work strands" relating to Infected Blood compensation.
- 25. The complainant stated that DWP makes arguments in relation to the Infected Blood Inquiry as a reason not to release the information. They stated that the Inquiry, by virtue of the Inquiries Act, is prevented from making criminal or civil liability findings. They also set out that the Government asked Sir Robert Francis KC to undertake a compensation framework study some years ago, separately from the Infected Blood Inquiry. They explained that Sir Robert's independent study was delivered to the Government almost a year before the request was made and the Paymaster General informed the House of Commons in December 2022 that Sir Robert was advising the Government on how best to introduce this compensation framework. The complainant disputed that DWP was entitled to seek to use the existence of the separate Infected Blood Inquiry to prevent disclosure.
- 26. The complainant disputed that the policy of Infected Blood Compensation was at the formulation stage as interim payments have been paid and the framework has existed for almost a year. They considered that the Infected Blood Compensation policy is at the implementation stage.
- 27. The complainant raised that the term "framework" is specifically used by the Commissioner in his guidance which states: "In this context, the policy can be seen as a framework of 'rules' put in place to achieve a particular objective. This framework sets in stone some fundamental details, but also inevitably leaves more detailed decisions to be made by those implementing the plan, thus giving some inbuilt flexibility on how it can be delivered. Any such adjustment or decision that can be made within this inbuilt flexibility ie without altering the original objectives or rules is likely to be an implementation decision rather than policy development". The complainant considered that as the compensation

¹ Citing "HC Deb, 15 December 2022, c1249"



framework had been delivered to the Government a year prior, this was of particular significance.

DWP's arguments

- 28. DWP explained in its refusal notice to the complainant that the requested information relates to Infected Blood compensation and, at the time of the request, there was an ongoing public inquiry relating to this matter and a final report was still to be published. DWP explained that the final report may include recommendations which require DWP to make legislative or other changes to inform a wider Government response.
- 29. At internal review, DWP acknowledged that there had been a high-level objective agreed, in that interim compensation has been provided to infected individuals and bereaved partners. DWP explained that the Government had not yet responded to the second Infected Blood interim report and was awaiting the final report from the Inquiry and specific details had not therefore been finalised.
- 30. DWP explained that the recommendations made by Sir Robert Francis KC were still being considered alongside the Inquiry's second interim report and are aiding current discussions. DWP explained that this provides it with a larger frame of reference and perspective when discussing finer policy details and helps DWP to cover all eventualities.
- 31. In its submissions to the Commissioner, DWP stated:

"We applied this exemption as, at the time of the request, there is an ongoing public inquiry, the Infected Blood Inquiry (the Inquiry) relating to this matter and a final report of the Inquiry is still to be published".

- 32. DWP explained that the Government response to the final report may require DWP to make legislative or other changes as part of the wider government response.
- 33. DWP considered that it is important to note that while the Government accepts the moral case for compensation, no final policy decisions have been made, beyond the Government paying interim compensation payments.
- 34. DWP explained that as the Inquiry's work is in progress, "naturally the Government's response is still in the development or formulation stage".
- 35. DWP explained that the information withheld under section 35(1)(a) includes potential options available for Ministers and senior officials to consider, as is typical during policy development. DWP confirmed that



the Government has not published or finalised decisions related to this information.

The Commissioner's position

- 36. Having reviewed the withheld information and DWP's submissions, the Commissioner accepts that the specified withheld information relates to the formulation of government policy, that being the final Infected Blood compensation scheme.
- 37. The Commissioner acknowledges the complainant's position that the policy position on whether compensation should be given had been made and they believe anything further is implementation.
- 38. The Commissioner's guidance on section 35(1)(a) confirms that policy formulation may continue after the announcement of the policy or legislation has been passed. The guidance states:

"For complicated policies, it is possible that formulation may continue even after this point. In some cases the government announces a highlevel policy, or passes a 'framework' bill into law, but leaves the finer details of a policy still to be worked out. The high-level policy objective has been finalised, but detailed policy options are still being assessed and debated. Later information about the formulation of the detailed policy will still engage the exemption".

- 39. The Commissioner therefore considers that while the Government had agreed with Sir Robert's recommendation, and Sir Brian Langstaff's² endorsement, that compensation should be paid, the final compensation scheme had yet to be formulated with key decisions still to be legislated for.
- 40. The Commissioner accepts that the information withheld under section 35(1)(a) relates to the formulation of the final Infected Blood compensation scheme and therefore section 35(1)(a) can be engaged.
- 41. Section 35(1)(a) is a qualified exemption and the Commissioner will therefore proceed to consideration of the balance of the public interest.

Public interest in disclosing the information

42. DWP acknowledged the public interest in greater transparency which makes Government more accountable to the electorate and increases trust. DWP stated that the media and general population are quite

² Currently chairing the public inquiry into the scandal



rightly interested in what government departments are doing about the Infected Blood issue. DWP considered that there is a public interest in being able to assess the quality of advice being given to Ministers on areas of interest and Ministers' subsequent decision making.

- 43. The complainant considered that insufficient weight had been given to the fact that many of those infected and affected by infected blood products do not think that the Government is progressing with the established policy of paying compensation in relation to infected blood. They considered that disclosure would increase public confidence that the Government is doing what it says it is doing. They also considered that if the information itself says the opposite then the public interest would favour the public knowing that is the case.
- 44. The complainant noted DWP's statement in its refusal notice "there is an ongoing public Inquiry relating to Infected Blood compensation" however they considered that in addition to the compensation study held by the Government since March 2022, the Inquiry had already published its final recommendations on compensation.
- 45. The complainant set out that there is a substantial body of case law which establishes that assertions of a "chilling effect" on provision of advice, exchange of views or effective conduct of affairs are to be treated with some caution. The considered that there are two main reasons for such caution. Firstly, since FOIA was introduced in 2005, public officials now recognise that it is not possible to guarantee the confidentiality of their advice or deliberations and secondly because civil servants and other public officials are expected to be impartial and robust when giving advice, and not be easily deterred from expressing their views by the possibility of future disclosure.
- 46. The complainant also considered that the possibility of future disclosure would actually lead to better quality advice.

Public interest in maintaining the exemption

- 47. DWP considered that good Government depends on good decisionmaking and this needs to be based on the best advice available and a full consideration of all the options without fear of premature disclosure. DWP stated that if this public interest cannot be protected there is a risk that overall decision-making will become poorer. It also considered that there is a further risk that releasing information at this time ahead of final decisions by Ministers could misinform people and lead to more harm and confusion.
- 48. DWP considered that the timing of this request, ahead of a final report from the Inquiry, and coupled with the sensitivity of this issue meant



that it was prudent for DWP to have the space and opportunity to consider the Inquiry's final report and any recommendations before disclosing any information DWP holds about the Inquiry.

- 49. DWP confirmed that it had not yet finalised decisions in relation to the withheld information and it considered that if it were to disclose this whilst still developing and formulating the policy, it would be releasing information still in development and subject to change. For example, following potential recommendations made in the Inquiry's final report. DWP believed that this would unhelpfully and misleadingly signal that the Government has made decisions on the topic, ahead of publication of the Inquiry's final report. DWP considered that it is crucial, given the interest in this area, that the Government is able to come to a settled position without its initial views being put into the public domain.
- 50. DWP's view is that disclosure would be harmful to the policy development process. It confirmed that the Government has unequivocally accepted the moral case for compensation and has already shown a commitment to this through the payment of £100,000 to those infected and bereaved partners. However, given the complexity of the issues, DWP considered that it is only right that the Government considers each of the recommendations carefully. DWP stated that the Government is undertaking the necessary work to enable a swift response to the full report when it is published.
- 51. DWP considered that disclosure may impact on staff working on the policy as they may start taking outward bias into account, disrupting the fairness of the process.
- 52. DWP explained that if the information was disclosed, DWP would be unable to put the information into context without further disclosing information that is not the subject of the request and would not be public knowledge. DWP set out that this is because the full context of the situation is not determined until the policy is formed. DWP considered that the information presented to the public should be correct and representative of the final decision, which it cannot yet do, as final policy decisions have not yet been made.
- 53. DWP considered that, on balance, as the policy is still in development, it would be counterproductive to release information that may misrepresent DWP's and the Government's policy being developed in response to recommendations from the Infected Blood Inquiry. DWP explained that given that the Inquiry has yet to publish its final report, the policy is subject to change and will evolve as decisions are made across Government.

The balance of the public interest



- 54. The Commissioner accepts that significant weight should be given to safe space arguments ie the concept that the Government needs a safe space to develop ideas, debate live issues and reach decisions away from external interference and distraction where the policy making is live and the requested information relates to that policy making.
- 55. Whilst the Commissioner accepts that the public interest in maintaining the exemption will be strongest while the policy is still being formulated or developed, this does not convert the exemption to an absolute one where information will not be disclosed simply because of the stage that the policy process has reached. There will be occasions where the government policy is at the formulation or development stage and the public interest in disclosure is sufficiently strong that the public interest in maintaining the exemptions will not outweigh this.
- 56. The Commissioner's guidance on section 35(1)(a) clearly sets out that, in addition to the timing of the request, the relevance and weight of the public interest arguments will depend on the content and sensitivity of the information itself and the effect on its release in all the circumstances of the case.
- 57. In the specific circumstances of this case, the Commissioner accepts that there is a strong public interest in transparency regarding the Infected Blood Scandal and the Government's handling of the compensation scheme. However, he considers that the public interest in affording the Government the space to formulate its policy on the final Infected Blood Compensation scheme outweighs this.
- 58. He notes that, at the time of the request, the Government had not yet formally responded to the second interim report³ and had confirmed that it intended to await the final report before doing so⁴.
- 59. The Commissioner acknowledges the public interest in understanding how the Government is progressing the Compensation Scheme and that there is dissatisfaction at the time taken so far⁵. However, having reviewed the withheld information, he is not persuaded that disclosure would significantly further this public interest.
- 60. In conclusion, the Commissioner has found that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. In

³ <u>https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/reports/second-interim-report</u>

⁴ <u>https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-04-19/debates/FF839159-15EB-4102-980F-98EFA3B7775E/InfectedBloodInguiryUpdate</u>

⁵ https://haemophilia.org.uk/pi_posts/infected-blood-inquiry-2024-update/



reaching this finding, the Commissioner has placed particular weight on the timing of the request, ie that disclosure would have resulted in information relating to the final compensation scheme being placed into the public domain before the Government had made its policy decision on this.

Section 36: Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs

- 61. Section 36(2) of FOIA provides that information is exempt if, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.
- 62. Section 36(1) makes clear that section 36 cannot be engaged in relation to information which engages section 35. DWP has applied section 35 and 36 to different parts of the withheld information. Having reviewed the information redacted under section 36, the Commissioner is satisfied that none of the subsections of section 35 are engaged. In particular, section 35(1)(a) is not engaged as the information relates to the implementation of Interim Compensation Payments and is not therefore related to the formulation or development of Government policy.
- 63. In order to establish that the exemption has been applied correctly, the Commissioner considers it necessary to;
 - ascertain who acted as the qualified person;
 - establish that an opinion was given by the qualified person;
 - ascertain when the opinion was given; and
 - consider whether the opinion was reasonable.
- 64. DWP provided the Commissioner with the qualified person's opinion and the submission provided to them to aid this opinion.
- 65. The submissions and request for opinion was sent on 20 June 2023 and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions (in the Lords), Viscount Younger of Leckie, provided their opinion on 21 June 2023 which essentially confirmed that they agreed with the points set out in the submissions. The Commissioner has inspected the submission and accompanying information provided to the qualified person.
- 66. Section 36(5) of FOIA sets out who may act as the qualified person in relation to a public authority. In the case of a government department, any Minister of the Crown may act as the qualified person.



- 67. The Commissioner is therefore satisfied that Viscount Younger of Leckie was authorised to act as the qualified person in this case.
- 68. In determining whether the exemption is engaged, the Commissioner must consider whether the qualified person's opinion was a reasonable one.
- 69. The Commissioner takes the approach that if the opinion is in accordance with reason and not irrational or absurd in short, if its an opinion that a reasonable person could hold then it is reasonable. This is not the same as saying that it is the only reasonable opinion that could be held on the subject. The qualified person's opinion is not rendered unreasonable simply because other people may have come to a different (and equally reasonable) conclusion. It is only unreasonable if it is an opinion that no reasonable person in the qualified person's position could hold; it only has to be a reasonable opinion.
- 70. DWP confirmed that it was relying on sections 36(2)(b)(i), 36(2)(b)(ii) and 36(2)(c).
- 71. DWP explained that the information exempt under sections 36(2)(b)(i) and (ii) would inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and exchange of views for the purpose of deliberating ahead of any final decisions. DWP explained that the advice provided reflected the Government's position at the time but this had been superseded by events and this meant that further discussions and advice would be required to make a final decision. The submission set out that DWP Ministerial decisions on these matters rely on broader cross-government decisions where policy development is underway. It explained that such matters need to be considered by Ministers of multiple departments engaged in Collective Cabinet Responsibility.
- 72. DWP also confirmed that disclosure of the information withheld under section 36(2)(c)⁶ would prejudice the effective running of Government. The Commissioner cannot replicate the arguments in detail as this would reveal the contents of the withheld information, however, in essence the information is the administrative support provided to Ministers and officials to facilitate decision making.

The Commissioner's position

 $^{^{6}}$ This information does not include the internal email address withheld under section 36(2)(c) as the complainant has not disputed the redaction of this.



- 73. As set out above, the Commissioner is of the view that in assessing the qualified person's opinion, 'reasonableness' should be given its plain and ordinary meaning. An opinion that a reasonable person in the qualified person's position could hold will suffice. The opinion is not rendered unreasonable simply because other people may have come to a different and equally reasonable conclusion.
- 74. The Commissioner considers that the exemptions at section 36(2) are about the processes that may be inhibited, rather than focussing only on the content of the information. The issue is whether disclosure would inhibit the processes of providing advice or exchanging views. In order to engage the exemption, the information itself does not necessarily have to contain views and advice that are themselves free and frank. On the other hand, if the information only consists of relatively neutral statements, then it may not be reasonable to think that disclosure would inhibit the provision of advice or exchange of views. Therefore, although it may be harder to engage the exemption if the information in scope consists of neutral statements, circumstances might dictate that the information should be withheld in order to not inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and the free and frank exchange of views. This will depend on the facts of each case.
- 75. The Commissioner considers that the nature of the withheld information is largely as would be expected, varying from factual information to potential issues and concerns. The Commissioner considers that, in relation to the process of giving advice and frank discussions, it is not unreasonable to conclude that there is a real and significant risk that officials would be less candid in future when offering similar information should they consider that this information could be disclosed.
- 76. The Commissioner also accepts that it is a reasonable opinion that disclosure of the administrative information withheld under section 36(2)(c) could lead to prejudice to the effectiveness of the running of Government.
- 77. The severity and extent of the impact this is likely to have is, however, another matter. This is not significant in assessing the reasonableness or otherwise of the qualified person's opinion in the circumstances of this case. They are, however, relevant in assessing the balance of the public interest which the Commissioner has considered below.
- 78. Having reviewed the withheld information and the submissions provided by DWP, the Commissioner is satisfied that the qualified person's opinion is reasonable. The Commissioner therefore considers that section 36(2)(b)(i), (ii) and 36(2)(c) are engaged in relation to the relevant withheld information. He also accepts that the likelihood of the prejudice envisaged reaches the higher "would" prejudice threshold.



Public interest test

79. As mentioned, the exemption is subject to the public interest test set out in section 2(2)(b) of FOIA. Therefore, the Commissioner must also consider whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the withheld information.

Public interest in disclosing the information

80. The arguments in favour of disclosure are the same as those set out in the analysis of the section 35(1)(a) public interest considerations. For brevity, the Commissioner will not repeat them.

Public interest in maintaining the exemption

- 81. DWP considered that good government depends on good decisionmaking and this needs to be based on the best advice available and a full consideration of all the options without fear of premature disclosure. DWP stated that if this public interest cannot be protected there is a risk that overall decision-making will become poorer. It also considered that there is a further risk that releasing information at this time ahead of final decisions by Ministers could misinform people and lead to more harm and confusion.
- 82. DWP explained that Ministers and DWP officials need to be able to share information in a free and open environment without the fear of having to release that information before formal decisions have been taken. DWP considered that Ministers and officials need to be able to converse constructively and consider all aspects, some of which could be taken out of context before final discussions have taken place.
- 83. DWP explained that Ministers and DWP officials need to be able to hold constructive conversations regarding the Infected Blood policy work, to allow all aspects and eventualities to be considered. DWP considered that if these discussions are held without the necessary space, time and privacy, then good and effective decisions cannot be guaranteed. Furthermore, material could be taken out of context before final discussions have taken place, which would likely misrepresent the final and actual position of the government.
- 84. DWP considered that due to the sensitivity and seriousness of the Infected Blood tragedy, it is only right that the public are supplied with correct and factual information. DWP stated that if incorrect or incomplete information was released and presented a potentially incomplete view of the government's final response, this would cause unwarranted stress or upset to those affected by the case. DWP acknowledged that it could put the information into context, however, it



explained that this would require it to disclose information that would otherwise be redacted under policy formulation exemptions.

The balance of the public interest

- 85. The Commissioner recognises that there is a strong public interest in the disclosure of information which will allow scrutiny of the Government's handling of the Infected Blood compensation scheme.
- 86. However, the Commissioner accords more significant weight to the public interest in not disclosing internal discussions prematurely and thereby potentially negatively impacting policy implementation.
- 87. Having found that the qualified person's opinion was reasonable, appropriate weight must be given to the prejudice identified in balancing the public interest. What is appropriate weight will depend on the severity, extent and frequency of the prejudice. The Commissioner accepts DWP's arguments that disclosure "would" cause the envisaged prejudice, which is the higher threshold of prejudice. This means that the qualified opinion carries significant weight as a public interest factor.
- 88. In the very specific circumstances of this case, the Commissioner accepts that disclosure could lead to misunderstanding of the Government's position due to an incomplete picture. It is not apparent to the Commissioner how DWP could put the information into context without revealing its current position before this has been finalised.
- 89. The Commissioner accepts that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. In reaching this finding, the Commissioner has placed particular weight on the timing of the request, ie that disclosure would result in the discussions and administration of a decision being disclosed into the public domain before the final decision itself.
- 90. The Commissioner considers that the balance of the public interest lies in maintaining the exemptions at section 36(2)(b)(i), (ii) and (c).



Right of appeal

91. 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: <u>grc@justice.gov.uk</u> Website: <u>www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-</u> <u>chamber</u>

- 92. 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.
- 93. 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

Victoria Parkinson Senior Case Officer Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF