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Pete Bevington

Email: [news@shetnews.co.uk](mailto:news@shetnews.co.uk)  
28 July 2015

Dear Mr Bevington,

**REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**  
**Cabinet Office Internal Review Reference: IR 321170**  
**(Original Case Reference: Fol 321170)**

Thank you for your email of 10 July 2015. You asked for an internal review of our response of 26 June 2015 to Neil Riddell's request for information. In his request he asked for dates and details relating to the inquiry into the leaked Scotland Office memo.

I have carefully reviewed the handling of your request and I consider that the exemptions at section 31(1)(g), in conjunction with s.31(2)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act were properly applied. I believe that the balance of the public interest was fully considered in respect of section 31(1)(g) – (2)(b) for the reasons set out in our letter of 26 June 2015. I have therefore concluded that I should uphold the decision given in our letter.

I have considered the points made in your appeal and am of the view that the information that you have requested, taken with information already in the public domain, would provide sufficient detail to have an adverse effect on future investigation processes. In particular, the release of dates may allow a timeline to be constructed, which could allow the process of the investigation to be identified and lead to unhelpful speculation into the order or manner in which the investigation was handled, and into the investigation process. This would not be in the public interest, in that public authorities must be able to conduct investigations in the most effective manner, without presentational concerns in mind. This may ensue if there were concerns over fragments of information reaching the public domain without proper context.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request for information, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

PP **Roger Smethurst**  
Deputy Director and Head of Knowledge and Information Management Unit