

From: **Owen Boswarva** <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>  
Date: 22 January 2018 at 17:00  
Subject: FOI request: Geospatial Commission announcement  
To: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk, foirequests@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Hello,

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

I am submitting this request to both Cabinet Office and Treasury but would be content with a single response if the same information is held by both departments.

On 22 November 2017 Cabinet Office and Treasury published a joint press release about the Chancellor's announcement of a new Geospatial Commission:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-to-unlock-hidden-value-of-government-data>

The press release includes a statement that the Commission will drive a move to use geospatial data produced by government "more productively - unlocking up to £11 billion of extra value for the economy every year."

Please provide any report, paper, memorandum, or other information held that explains how the figure of "£11 billion of extra value" was estimated, including any caveats or assumptions, and any contextual information necessary to understand the basis of calculation. If the figure is derived from publicly accessible sources please provide a link or links.

Many thanks for your assistance with this request for information.

Best regards,

Owen Boswarva

Contact details

e-mail: [owen.boswarva@gmail.com](mailto:owen.boswarva@gmail.com)

telephone: [REDACTED]

address: [REDACTED]



Cabinet Office

Room 405  
70 Whitehall  
London, SW1A 2AS

foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)  
0207 276 1234

Owen Boswarva  
[owen.boswarva@gmail.com](mailto:owen.boswarva@gmail.com)

FOI Reference: FOI325803  
Date: 25/01/2018

Dear Owen Boswarva

I refer to your request where you asked:

*"The press release includes a statement that the Commission will drive a move to use geospatial data produced by government "more productively - unlocking up to £11 billion of extra value for the economy every year."*

*Please provide any report, paper, memorandum, or other information held that explains how the figure of "£11 billion of extra value" was estimated, including any caveats or assumptions, and any contextual information necessary to understand the basis of calculation. If the figure is derived from publicly accessible sources please provide a link or links."*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Cabinet Office.

I would suggest getting in touch with the Geospatial Commission directly via UKGI's email address: [enquiries@ukgi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ukgi.org.uk)

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI team. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Sharon Carter  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

email: [foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B.', written in a cursive style.

**FOI Team**  
**Cabinet Office**

From: Owen Boswarva <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>  
Date: 25 January 2018 at 18:22  
Subject: FOI request: Geospatial Commission announcement  
To: enquiries@ukgi.org.uk

Hello,

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

I submitted the same request to Cabinet Office and HM Treasury on Monday. Cabinet Office has advised it does not hold the information but suggested I contact the Geospatial Commission at your address. If you consider the Geospatial Commission to be a separate legal entity from UKGI please treat this as an information request for each entity. However I would be content with a single response if the same information is held by both.

On 22 November 2017 Cabinet Office and Treasury published a joint press release about the Chancellor's announcement of a new Geospatial Commission:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-to-unlock-hidden-value-of-government-data>

The press release includes a statement that the Commission will drive a move to use geospatial data produced by government "more productively - unlocking up to £11 billion of extra value for the economy every year."

Please provide any report, paper, memorandum, or other information held that explains how the figure of "£11 billion of extra value" was estimated, including any caveats or assumptions, and any contextual information necessary to understand the basis of calculation. If the figure is derived from publicly accessible sources please provide a link or links.

Many thanks for your assistance with this request for information.

Best regards,

Owen Boswarva

Contact details  
e-mail: owen.boswarva@gmail.com  
telephone: [REDACTED]  
address: [REDACTED]



HM Treasury

Information Rights Unit  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Owen Boswarva



020 7270 5000  
foirequests@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

19 February 2018

Ref: FOI2018/01469

Via email: owen.boswarva@gmail.com

Dear Mr Boswarva

## Freedom of Information Act 2000: Geospatial Commission

Thank you for your enquiry of 22 January 2018, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

*"I am submitting this request to both Cabinet Office and Treasury but would be content with a single response if the same information is held by both departments.*

*On 22 November 2017 Cabinet Office and Treasury published a joint press release about the Chancellor's announcement of a new Geospatial Commission:*

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-to-unlock-hidden-value-of-government-data>*

*The press release includes a statement that the Commission will drive a move to use geospatial data produced by government "more productively - unlocking up to £11 billion of extra value for the economy every year."*

*Please provide any report, paper, memorandum, or other information held that explains how the figure of "£11 billion of extra value" was estimated, including any caveats or assumptions, and any contextual information necessary to understand the basis of calculation. If the figure is derived from publicly accessible sources please provide a link or links."*

We can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request. However, the exemption at section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act) – information intended for future publication – is engaged in relation to your request. Section 22 is a qualified exemption, requiring us to consider the public interest balance in disclosure.

There is a public interest in transparency and openness. However, public authorities must, within reason, have space to be able to determine their own publication timetables and deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication. The FOI

Act recognises that the coincidence of individual requests for information should not determine the publication timetables of public authorities, for example by forcing them into premature publication. This protection is afforded whether it is the public authority itself, which is the case here, or another person that intends to publish.

Given these considerations, we judge that the balance of interest lies in not disclosing the information held at this time. The Geospatial Commission is in the process of being established, including decisions about its strategic priorities. The Government then intends to publish the requested information later this year.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

*Yours sincerely*

  
M Castanha  
Information Rights Unit

## **Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

If you are not happy with this reply, you can request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 3/Red, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

Email: [foirequests@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk)

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury which is outlined above.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (or via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk>).



# UK Government Investments

Upper Ground Floor  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

freedomofinformation@ukgi.gov.  
uk  
[www.gov.uk/government/organizations/uk-government-investments](http://www.gov.uk/government/organizations/uk-government-investments)

Owen Boswarva

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Owen.boswarva@gmail.com

Ref:2018\_0001

Your Ref:

19 February 2018

Dear Sir,

## Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email of 25 January 2018 in which you requested the following information:

“On 22 November 2017 Cabinet Office and Treasury published a joint press release about the Chancellor's announcement of a new Geospatial Commission:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-to-unlock-hidden-value-of-government-data>

The press release includes a statement that the Commission will drive a move to use geospatial data produced by government "more productively - unlocking up to £11 billion of extra value for the economy every year."

Please provide any report, paper, memorandum, or other information held that explains how the figure of "£11 billion of extra value" was estimated, including any caveats or assumptions, and any contextual information necessary to understand the basis of calculation. If the figure is derived from publicly accessible sources please provide a link or links.”

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).



I can confirm that UKGI does hold the information you have requested. However it has been concluded that it is not appropriate to publish the information under the exemption at section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption, requiring us to consider the public interest balance in disclosure. There is a public interest in transparency and openness. However, public authorities such as UK Government Investments must, within reason, have space to be able to determine their own publication timetables and deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication. The Act recognises that the coincidence of individual requests for information should not determine the publication timetables of public authorities, for example by forcing them into premature publication. This protection is afforded whether it is the public authority itself, which is the case here, or another person that intends to publish.

Given these considerations, we judge that the balance of interest lies in not disclosing the information held at this time. The Geospatial Commission is in the process of being established, including decisions about its strategic priorities. The government then intends to publish the requested information later this year.

#### Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to UK Government Investments at:

UKGI  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
E-mail: [freedomofinformation@ukgi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@ukgi.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, 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,

FOI team

UK Government Investments