

From: ACCOUNT, Unmonitored <Unmonitored.ACCOUNT@education.gov.uk>

Date: Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 14:48

Subject: 2019-0037126 CRM:0020001

To: Owen Boswarva <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>

Dear Mr Boswarva

I refer to your request for information, which was received on 16 October 2019. You requested the following:

“Please provide a list of the academies (or academy trusts) and free schools that are members of the RPA scheme, based on the most recent date for which that information is held. Please include at minimum the name of the school and a unique identifier such as the URN or DfE Number, and ideally also the name of the local education authority (LEA).”

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”). As at 18th October 2019, 6116 academies are live RPA members, however the Department holds the specific information you requested, but the information requested is being withheld. The exemption that applies to this information is s43 of the Act, which allows for the withholding of information as it is considered commercially sensitive.

Section 43(2) of the Act provides for information to be exempt from disclosure where disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person. This exemption requires a public interest test to be carried out, to determine whether the public interest in withholding the information, outweighs the public interest in its release.

There is a strong public interest in ensuring transparency in this process and in there being accountability within the Department. This is to ensure that public money is being used effectively and that the Department and academies are getting value for money. It is also important to ensure that policy and processes are conducted in an open and honest way.

However, the general public interest in releasing the information requested must be balanced against the public interest in protecting commercially sensitive information.

This data comprises of confidential commercially sensitive business information about the Department’s Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) and its members, the disclosure of which would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Department’s RPA members and would enable the applicant to gain a competitive advantage over competitors and potential new market entrants.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Your correspondence has been allocated reference number 2019-0037126. Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications. If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your FOI request and wish to make a complaint, or request a review of this decision, you should write to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, however, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have already exhausted the Department's complaints procedure.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Risk Protection Arrangement for Academies Team | Commercial Lead
Operations Group | Commercial Directorate | Schools Commercial Team