

Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

Subject: Request for details of any preparatory work undertaken to prepare for the possibility of UK's exit from the EU

Date Released: 23 May 2016

Summary of request: The enquirer requested details of any preparatory work undertaken to prepare for the possibility of UK's exit from the EU

Information Released

You asked:

1. What preparatory work has your Department (including arms-length bodies) undertaken in order to understand how its' remit and operations could be affected by a vote to leave the EU?

2. Please could you confirm whether your Department (including arms-length bodies) has delayed any decisions on policy matters, major projects or procurements until after the results of the EU referendum? If yes, please say which.

3. If the UK voted to leave the EU, please indicate whether your Department (including arms-length bodies) would be likely to experience any of the following over the next 2 -3 years as a direct or indirect result:

- **A change in the remit or duties of your organisation**
- **Major projects or procurements subject to uncertainty, cancellation or delayed**
- **Decision-making**
- **Need to help client group(s) understand the implications of EU exit for them**
- **Need for increased budget to deal with additional workload related to EU**
- **Renegotiation and exit**
- **Need for extra staff to deal with additional workload related to EU renegotiation and exit**
- **Need to change IT systems or implement new ones**
- **Need to review suppliers or supplier contracts.**

At the February European Council, the Government negotiated a new settlement, giving the United Kingdom a special status in a reformed European Union. The Government's position is that the UK will be stronger, safer and better off remaining in a reformed EU. If the result of the referendum is a decision to leave, the Government would have two years under the Article 50 process to seek to negotiate the terms of the UK's exit, with the possibility of extending this time frame with the agreement of the other 27 Member States.

As you may be aware, the Government has already published a document on "The Process for Withdrawing from the European Union" on Gov.uk at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-process-for-withdrawing-from-the-european-union>

The Treasury has also set out its economic analysis of the long-term impact of these potential models in its publication 'HM Treasury Analysis: the Long Term Economic Impact of EU memberships and the Alternatives', which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hm-treasury-analysis-the-long-term-economic-impact-of-eu-membership-and-the-alternatives>