

April 2021

Ref: FOI2021/10837

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 22 March 2021, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"Please disclose any correspondence between Rishi Sunak and David Cameron concerning the CCFF and other Covid finance schemes which Greensill applied for last year, including but not limited to CLBILS.

Specifically, please conduct a search of Mr Sunak's personal phone, which is not exempt from disclosure under the FOIA if, as we understand, it was used to discuss government business."

We can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information in scope of your request.

HM Treasury has released a range of information relating to this matter both proactively and in response to FOI requests. In line with this approach and in the interests of transparency, the Chancellor has provided all messages that were sent from him to David Cameron on this matter, the contents of which are included in the Annex below.

However, we are withholding the communications sent by David Cameron to the Chancellor. These communications were made by David Cameron in his capacity as an employee of Greensill, and with an expectation of confidence.

We consider that these communications are exempt from disclosure under section 41(1) of the FOI Act (information provided in confidence). Section 41 is an absolute exemption and does not therefore require a consideration of the public interest.

As you will be aware, the Treasury has already published previous FOIs on this matter on [our website](#). In the interests of transparency, we can confirm that David Cameron reached out informally by telephone to the Chancellor, the Economic Secretary and the Financial Secretary on the matter of Greensill's access to the CCFF. The matter was referred to the relevant officials and, following appropriate consultations as outlined in the previous requests, the request was turned down. During the process this was communicated to Greensill by officials and, in parallel, by the Chancellor to David Cameron.

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

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

Annex - Communications from the Chancellor to David Cameron

3rd April Text message 1: "Hi David, thanks for your message. I am stuck back to back on calls but will try you later this evening and if gets too late, first thing tomorrow. Best, Rishi"

23rd April text message 2: "Hi David, apologies for the delay. I think the proposals in the end did require a change to the Market Notice but I have pushed the team to explore an alternative with the Bank that might work. No guarantees, but the Bank are currently looking at it and Charles should be in touch. Best, Rishi"

Copyright notice

Most documents HM Treasury supplies in response to a Freedom of Information request, including this letter, continue to be protected by Crown copyright. This is because they will have been produced by Government officials as part of their work. You are free to use these documents for your information, for any non-commercial research you may be doing and for news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, will require the permission of the copyright holder. Crown copyright is managed by The National Archives and you can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright material at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/re-using-public-sector-information/uk-government-licensing-framework/crown-copyright/>

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, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.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>).