

# Freedom of Information request 1418/2013

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## Information request

*What organisations or people have the Department for Culture, Media and Sport dealt with as part of the 'Scotland Analysis Programme'.*

## DWP response

I wrote to you on 24 April and 23 May 2013 confirming that the Department for Work and Pensions holds some information falling within the terms of your request and that we required further time to consider a public interest exemption.

The UK Government already publishes a significant amount of information relating to stakeholder engagement in quarterly transparency returns. Details of the Department for Work and Pensions Ministers' engagement with stakeholders is recorded in these transparency returns, which are available online:

[Publications - Inside Government - GOV.UK](#)

We consider that information you have requested which is not already covered by these existing transparency returns falls within section 35 of the FOIA, which allows Government Departments to withhold information relating to the formulation or development of government policy if this is in the public interest; and section 22 of the FOIA, which allows public authorities to withhold information intended for future publication if this is in the public interest.

In line with its commitment to conducting an open and transparent programme of work, HM Treasury, the department leading the Scotland analysis programme, will be publishing information regarding stakeholder engagement across the programme towards the conclusion of the analysis. In this case, we consider that the balance of public interest lies in favour of withholding the information until that time. In order to formulate the analysis, it is important that the UK Government has the space to engage confidentially with a range of stakeholders who can help develop and provide challenge to our work. This ensures that the analysis is robust and well tested when it enters the public domain. We consider that publishing stakeholder information before the end

of the programme would inhibit this process. It is therefore in the public interest to publish this information at the end of the analysis programme. In addition, publishing at this time will provide a more complete picture of how stakeholders have been engaged throughout the life of the programme.