

May 2018



REFERENCE: 18FOI 56

You requested the following information:

- In the past 12 months, have any allegations of bullying been made against Wales Office Special Advisors by Wales Office staff?
- Has the Director of the Wales Office or Senior Management Team investigated any allegations of bullying by Wales Office Special Advisors in the past 12 months?
- What anti-bullying guidance has the Wales Office issued to Special Advisors and officials?

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We have conducted a thorough search of our records and have concluded that the Wales Office does not hold any information relating to allegations of bullying made against WO Special Advisors by WO staff in the last 12 months or investigations by the Director or Senior Management Team.

The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty is to only provide the recorded information held.

The Special Advisor Code of Conduct which was re-issued to all Special Advisors as part of their employment contract following the general election in 2017 makes clear that they are expected to follow the Civil Service Code regarding standards of behaviour and are subject to the same disciplinary procedures as officials where conduct falls below the standards expected.