



HM Treasury

Information Rights Unit
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

020 7270 5000
foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

18 June 2021

Ref: IR2021/15134

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000: request for an internal review

You wrote to us on 22 May 2021 asking us to review our response of 20 May to your Freedom of Information request for communications between Tom Scholar and David Cameron about Greensill Capital.

Your request for an internal review was made as follows:

I would like to appeal against your verdict that you're unable to respond to much of my request in the referenced Freedom of Information request. In your response, you state:

"Your other requests relate to responses from Mr Scholar to Mr Cameron's text messages between 5 March and 7 April 2020. The Treasury does not hold this information. On 1 June 2020, Mr Scholar's mobile phone had to be reset, after being automatically locked when an incorrect password was entered several times (this is a standard security feature on Treasury mobile phones)."

While I accept that this means you are unable to retrieve Mr. Scholar's texts from his own phone, it seems extremely likely that a record of these messages will still exist on Mr. Cameron's phone, not least because he has himself released the text of his messages to Mr. Scholar.

I accept that the HM Treasury Information unit has no powers to compel Mr. Cameron to release these, but it strikes me that it would be well within your remit to instruct Mr. Scholar to make the request of Mr. Cameron to provide the requested information from his own telephone. He has already released his own messages, and would no doubt accede to a request from Mr. Scholar to release Mr. Scholar's messages. These could then be redacted as necessary by the Information Unit and released in accordance with my FOI request.

We can confirm that we now hold further information within the scope of your request. Mr Scholar's text messages to Mr Cameron were provided to us by Mr Cameron's office, having been requested by us in accordance with an undertaking made by Mr Scholar to the Treasury Select Committee at an oral hearing on 27 May 2020. In the light of the public interest in this exchange we are including in our release personal information outside the scope of the Freedom of Information Act.

We are also withholding personal contact details under **section 40(2)** of the FOI Act which, by virtue of section 40(3A)(a), provides an absolute exemption for third party personal data, where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

Substantive response

Please find below our response to your questions.

6/3/20	10:36	Great to hear from you. Here's the Cunliffe number. +44 203 461 [REDACTED] Can also supply emails, mobile numbers, you name it.
	10:37	Lunch would be great. Quite a lot to talk about! I'll also see you <i>[at the leaving event for Mark Carney]</i> chez Rishi in a fortnight. Unless it gets Covid cancelled, which seems quite likely, since the world's central bankers are in <i>[crisis]</i> mode.
17/3/20	14:15	Many thanks - just got the letter - brings back happy memories - we're on the case.
	14:15	Guess we won't be elbow-bumping down Rishi's place any time soon.
20/3/20	23:36	I finally got round to replying to Lex. Last heard from him in 2008. Not the only old acquaintance I've renewed this week!
28/3/20	12:57	Thanks for all that. We're hoping to get a decision over the weekend. Well done for holding off [REDACTED]. Not often anyone manages that.
30/3/20	19:16	Decision now made, but not the one Lex was after. Charles Roxburgh is ringing him to explain it.
30/3/20	21:23	Certainly - will do - as soon as I can get off this other call I'm on.
3/4/20	23:45	Gather you're talking to CX in the morning. That's the place to start. Happy to pick it after that. Tom
7/4/20	08:09	Call being set up with Lex today. One or two other things going on! Will drop you a line afterwards. Speak soon. Tom
7/4/20	08:42	Certainly will be. Just trying to fit it in round the endless phone calls arranged by the Cabinet Office.
7/4/20	13:17	With apologies, we'll have to push the call back to later this afternoon. Have just been asked to speak to CX at 1.30pm. The office will be in touch with Lex imminently. 3pm or 4.15pm might work. Sorry about this.

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

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 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>).