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[REDACTED]  
By e-mail: [REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI2021/10084  
26 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Aspinall Foundation**

Thank you for your request for information of 15 April 2021 about the Aspinall Foundation. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

*Copies of all correspondence between representatives of the Aspinall Foundation and Defra ministers between 1st January 2020 to date.*

*Details of all grants made by Defra or any of its agencies to the Aspinall Foundation in the last 10 years.*

We wrote to you on 14 May 2021 and 14 June 2021 advising you that the time limit for responding to your request for information needed to be extended to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to the exemption at section 43(2) of the FOIA, which relates to commercial interests. Having conducted consultations with third parties with regards to the information you have requested, we have concluded that this exemption is not engaged.

We enclose a copy of the information we hold in scope of your request at Annexes C to K.

However, we have decided that some of the information in the attachments should be withheld under sections 40(2) and 40(3A) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to persons other than you. These sections exempt personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data because the information relates to non-SCS members of staff who are not public facing officials and would not reasonably have expected their names to be made public.

We have also decided to withhold some of the information you have requested under sections 27(1)(a), 27(1)(c) and 27(1)(d) of the FOIA, which relate to information which, if



released, would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between the UK and any other state, the interests of the UK abroad and the promotion or protection by the UK of its interests abroad.

We recognise that there is a public interest in promoting the accountability and transparency of government concerning international wildlife conservation. However, discussions between the UK and affected countries about areas of mutual interest are ongoing and it would not be in the public interest to disclose information which might prejudice the outcome of these discussions. In a similar vein, there is a high public interest in protecting information which may relate to, or inform, the government's positions. The effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments and international organisations. In this case, the information involved, which if released, would reduce the UK Government's ability to protect and promote UK interests and would prejudice our relations. The public interest in openness of government is therefore outweighed by the substantial interest in the Government being able to successfully pursue the UK's national interests abroad.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely

**[REDACTED]**  
**Information Rights Team**  
[InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk)

## **Annex A**

### **Copyright**

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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## **Annex B**

### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights via email at [InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO's offices are currently closed so please visit their website on how to contact them during this period, here:

<https://ico.org.uk>

Additionally if you wish to make a complaint to the ICO please use the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>