

Mr William Wragg MP  
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Houses of Parliament  
London  
SW1A 0AA

15 March 2022

Dear William Wragg MP,

On 3 December 2021, my colleague James Dipple-Johnstone wrote to you following Elizabeth Denham, the previous Information Commissioner's appearance in front of Committee on 25 November 2021. In this correspondence, Mr Dipple-Johnstone stated:

"In response to a question from the Chair about our funding relationship with the Cabinet Office, the Commissioner said correctly that the grant in aid we receive to fund our access to information work comes through DCMS [Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport] as the sponsor department. However, it should be noted that it originates from the Cabinet Office's budget, as the department with responsibility for FOI [Freedom of Information] policy".

In response, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Steve Barclay MP informed your Committee that: "None of the money allocated to the Information Commissioner comes from the Cabinet Office's budget" (February 2022).

We have subsequently consulted with officials at DCMS on the correct position and confirm the ICO's FOI work is funded by grant in aid that comes directly from the budget of DCMS, as the sponsor department.

When considering an increase to the grant in aid baseline, DCMS will consult with the Cabinet Office on value for money, as the department with responsibility for FOI policy and performance across government. However, none of the allocated funding comes from the Cabinet Office budget.

I hope this provides clarity for the Committee in finalising its report. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

*Paul Arnold*

Paul Arnold  
Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer  
Information Commissioner's Office