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Our ref: FOI-11/5300

6 July 2011



Dear 

## **R.E. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

Further to my letter to you of 24 June, I am now able to provide a final response to the question below from your email of 30 May.

*“As regards the meetings held with large firms, a list of those firms invited to attend each meeting.”*

Attendees were asked to document their attendance by the organisers and I have provided at **Annex 1** the lists of those that did so at the two meetings.

Thank you for your patience in relation to this final part of your request. As mentioned in my earlier response, we needed time to consider the public interest in disclosure having already concluded that - because the meeting took place under Chatham House rules to allow for free and frank discussion and exchange of views - section 36(2)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act applies to this attendee list.

As this is a qualified exemption it was necessary to balance your legitimate interest in seeking this information against the individuals' legitimate interests in maintaining confidentiality. In reaching the conclusion to disclose this information to you I considered the fact that this issue has received some press attention of late and caused some concern among the provider base, which the LSC believes to be unjustified; the fact that the individual attendees have been consulted and have not objected to disclosure; as well as the fact that the names of individuals who attended and the views that they may have expressed have not been disclosed, as is consistent with Chatham House rules.

### **Right to review**

As part of our obligations under the FOI Act, the Commission has an independent review process. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of the FOIA aspects of request, you have the right to ask for internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Legal Director, Legal Department, Legal Services Commission, 4 Abbey Orchard Street, London SW1P 2BS.



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If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have a further right of external appeal which can be made to the Information Commissioner who can be contacted at the following address: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us at the above address. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely



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