



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Response for Freedom of Information Act**

Thank you for contacting me about the Freedom of Information Act.

I fully support freedom of information ("FOI"), as does the Government, and it is right that the FOI process is now being reviewed, after more than a decade in operation.

The Government's aim is to be as open and transparent as possible on the substance of information, consistent with ensuring that a private space is protected for the exchange of frank advice inside government. The most effective system is one in which policy makers can freely give advice, while citizens can shine a light into government.

The Government has established an independent, cross-party Commission to review the Freedom of Information Act. The Commission received over 30,000 submissions and held two oral evidence sessions in January. I look forward to the Commission's conclusion and the Government's response in due course.

I am encouraged that my colleagues in government are strengthening accountability and making public services work better for people. I am also pleased that the World Wide Web Foundation's Open Data Barometer and Open Knowledge's Global Open Data Index ranked the UK as the world's leading country on open government. This is a position that we should be proud to hold.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

*Edward Timpson*

**Edward Timpson MP**