



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Department for Business, Energy &  
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FOI2018/23900

27 November 2018

Dear Dr Minh Alexander,

Thank you for your email of 5 November 2018 where you requested the following information:

*Please advise:*

1. *Did BEIS' predecessor Department review the Public Interest Disclosure Act after it was criticised in 2001, by the report of the Public Inquiry into the Bristol Heart scandal?*

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090811143822/http://www.bristol-inquiry.org.uk/final\\_report/the\\_report.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090811143822/http://www.bristol-inquiry.org.uk/final_report/the_report.pdf)

2. *Has BEIS received any requests from other government Departments to review the Public Interest Disclosure Act since July 2015 (at which point the government had committed to sectoral, anti-blacklisting legislation for the NHS)?*

*If so, please give details such as the dates of requests, the requesting Departments and the reasons for requests.*

3. *Did Mr Norman Lamb during his time in 2012 as Minister at BEIS (then known as BIS) receive any requests to review, amend or replace UK whistleblowing law, including from Public Concern at Work (now known as Protect) which later produced formal recommendations for legislative change in 2013.*

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/Whistleblowing%20Commission%20Report%20Final.pdf>

*If so, please give details of the requests received and the outcomes.*

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require

- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

I am writing to advise you on the information that you have requested. I will take each of your requests in turn.

Firstly, we are not aware of any review that BEIS' predecessor Department carried out on the Public Interest Disclosure Act in 2001 or the following few years. We have checked our records and did not find any information about such a review.

Secondly, you asked whether BEIS has had any requests from other Government departments to review the Public Interest Disclosure Act since July 2015. As stated in the Government's Response to the Report of the Gosport Independent Panel, BEIS is working with the Department of Health and Social Care to consider how best to strengthen protection for whistleblowers within the NHS in order to support patients, families and staff to raise concerns. The Government's response to the Gosport enquiry was published on 21 November 2018, officials met on 12 November 2018 to discuss.

Following a search of our records, we have not identified any other requests from other Government departments to review the Public Interest Disclosure Act since July 2015.

Finally, you asked whether Mr Norman Lamb received any requests as a BIS Minister in 2012 to review, amend or replace UK whistleblowing law. Following a search of our paper and electronic files we have found no such requests.

### **Appeals procedure**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit:

Information Rights Unit  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
Email: [FOI.Requests@beis.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.Requests@beis.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy