Dear Mr Alexander

**Freedom of Information Act 2000: Settlement Agreements**

Thank you for your enquiry of 14 February 2019, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

> "I would like to re-submit my FOI request with a narrower scope. Please advise:

**What data is held centrally by the Treasury on settlement agreements and special severance payments that are approved by the Treasury for public sector organisations?**

i. Please give details of all data parameters that are tracked by the Treasury, and indicate for how long they have been tracked.

ii. Please advise whether the Treasury keeps a central record of any confidentiality (non-disclosure) and non-disparagement clauses that feature in the settlement agreements that it approves."

HM Treasury is required to approve settlement agreements and special severance payments which are outside the relevant Department’s delegated authorities. It is the individual Department’s responsibility to maintain a reasonable record of the case.

It is not HM Treasury policy to retain records of approved or rejected settlement agreements and special severance payments. It is not HM Treasury policy to track data parameters relating to settlement agreements and special severance payments or to keep a central record of any confidentiality and non-disparagement clauses.

The Government Financial Reporting Manual requires public bodies within its scope to provide a statement of losses and special payments in their Annual Report and Accounts where the total amounts incurred are over the limits proscribed in Managing Public Money. This includes special severance payments, for which the total amount paid out, and the maximum, minimum and median values of payments made are recorded.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely
K Cunningham
Information Rights Unit
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Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you can request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury which is outlined above.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (or via their website at: https://ico.org.uk).