



Home Office

Corporate Services
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

020 7035 4848
(switchboard)

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Jo Hedges
hedgesj@policewitness.com

25 March 2014

Dear Ms Hedges,

Freedom of information request (reference 30945)

Thank you for your email, in which you ask for an update on the response provided to you, in December 2012, on space weather. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act 2000. Please note that a FoI response will only be sent to the person making the request. We are therefore providing our response directly to you.

In response to your request please note that the Home Office's position remains the same. As stated in the response to 24677 the Home Office holds information within the scope of your request. However this information is considered to be exempt from disclosure under the exemptions at sections 24(1) and 35(1)(a) of the Act. These sections of the Act provide that information can be withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security; and where it relates to the formulation or development of government policy.

In addition the Home Office neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any additional information and relies on the exemption at section 23(5) of the Act. This section of the Act concerns information supplied by or relating to a body dealing with security matters. **Please note that reliance on the exemption at section 23(5) should not be understood as a confirmation or denial that any additional information does, or does not exist – or is, or is not held by the Home Office.**

The Home Office maintains the public interest arguments advanced in our response to 24677.

You may find the following link useful as it provides information about the National Risk Register which sets out the assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different risks (including space weather) that may directly affect the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-of-civil-emergencies>

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **30945**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

B. Efunshile
Information Access Team

Switchboard: 020 7035 4848
E-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk