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| [REDACTED] | Area G-G  OAG  Victoria Quay  Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  Date 02.08.15 |

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 28 July 2015 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).  You asked:

“Can you please provide the names of all Special Advisers attached to your Department (as of the date of receipt of this message - 28 July)? I would be grateful if this information could be broken down by the relevant minister they advise.”

This request would fall under Part II, Exempt Information, Section 22: Information Intended for Future Publication.

There is a statutory requirement on the Government to publish information annually on the number and cost of special advisers across all departments.  The last such list was published on 30 November 2014 - see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-adviser-data-releases-numbers-and-costs-november-2014>

The list of special advisers appointed under the current administration will be published in due course.

You may, if dissatisfied with the treatment of your request, ask the Office of the Advocate General to conduct an internal review of its decision.  The internal review will be conducted by someone other than the person who took the initial decision.  Requests for internal review should be addressed to the Information Officer, Office the Advocate General, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

If following the internal review you remain dissatisfied with the treatment of your request by OAG then you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner, whose address is Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.  Details of the complaints procedure can be found here:

<http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom_of_information.aspx>

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]