

Fleet Bank HOUSE

2-6 SALISBURY SQUARE

LONDON EC4Y 8JX

# Direct Telephone Line 020 7211 8165

*GTN 211 8165*

*Web site* [*OME GOV.UK*](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-manpower-economics)

*Email: steven.mokogwu@bis.gsi.gov.uk*

Dear 2ndSeptember 2016

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ref/PSPRB/09-16/1**

Thank you for your email of 12th August 2016where you requested the following information:

***Please could you provide me copies of:***

***Correspondence from Prison Service Pay Review Body members to and from Dr Peter Knight CBE Chair of the Review Body written during the last 12 months regarding pay uplifts for remit group members in “Closed Grades”.***

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).

As the qualified person for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that the Office of Manpower Economics does hold one piece of correspondence between a review body member and the chair, which I think falls within the ambit of your request. This is an email from a review body member who was unable to attend a review body meeting, indicating to the review body chair the views of this member about the papers and issues to be discussed at the meeting.

It is my opinion that the information you have requested should not be disclosed, as doing so would, or would be likely to, prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. I therefore consider the information falls under exemption 36(2)(b) (ii) of the Freedom of Information Act and should be withheld. In applying this exemption I have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Office of Manpower Economics is an independent, non-statutory body which provides the Secretariat to the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB), and to other Pay Review Bodies. The PSPRB’s role is to advise the Government on pay and related matters for operation managers, prison officers and support grades; a role it has undertaken since 2001. Its reports are published, and include full summaries of all the evidence it has received and on which its recommendations are based.

In my opinion, this piece of correspondence should be treated in the same way as any other record of points made, and views expressed, by review body members in discussing the contents of their report. Releasing such a record would, in my opinion, be likely to inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and exchange of views which are essential for the purposes of the Review Body’s deliberations.

**Appeals Procedure**

If you are unhappy with the way the Office of Manpower Economicshas handled your request you may ask for an internal review. You should contact me at the Office of Manpower Economicsif you wish to complain.

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,



Martin Williams

Director, Office of Manpower Economics

Fleet Bank House

2-6 Salisbury Square

London EC4 8JX