

Annex A

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 March 2023 09:51
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@homeoffice.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: points of contact re Illegal Migration Bill

Morning [REDACTED]
Hope you are well

[REDACTED]
TEO have confirmed that they will respond to generic matters on the Bill and guide onward transmission to relevant departments on more specific matters.
Point of contacts in TEO are [REDACTED] who I have cc'd in this email
Department of Health would have responsibility for unaccompanied children in the context of the Bill and a point of contact would be [REDACTED] (also cc'd)
Please also keep me informed of any further developments regarding the Bill.
Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Branch | Safer Communities Directorate | Department of Justice, Room 4.20 Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SG, | Email:

[REDACTED]

Annex B

Section 28(1) - Relations within the UK

In favour of release:

There is a general public interest in being able to understand how decisions are made on the Illegal Migration Bill.

Disclosure would provide greater transparency and accountability and trust in the conduct of public affairs, especially as the Bill is of such great public interest.

In favour of non-disclosure:

Publishing information from other UK administrations could risk damaging relations between the administrations and in particular could inhibit information sharing from Whitehall.

There is a real risk that disclosure may result in Whitehall refusing to share information with the Department on the Bill.

Releasing some of the information could prejudice confidential discussions around the Illegal Migration Bill. To protect discussions and the collective decision making process, senior officials need a safe space to develop ideas, debate live issues, and reach decisions away from external interference and distraction. Senior officials should be free to express their own views and opinions in private and the release of the content of communications between administrations could inhibit that.

Most of the information relates to reserved or excepted matters where disclosure might harm the interests of the UK government.

The Illegal Migration Bill is still passing through the House of Lords and senior officials may feel inhibited from being frank and candid with one another because of the risk of subsequent disclosure and the quality of debate lying behind the decision making process could be diminished.

Conclusion:

The arguments in favour of non-disclosure outweigh the arguments in favour of release. There is a particular risk that the necessary information from Whitehall may not be shared resulting in the Department not being kept informed on important issues around clauses contained within the Illegal Migration Bill.