



Freedom of Information Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 36

PART II

EXEMPT INFORMATION

35 Formulation of government policy, etc.

- (1) Information held by a government department or by [^{F1}the Welsh Assembly Government] is exempt information if it relates to—
 - (a) the formulation or development of government policy,
 - (b) Ministerial communications,
 - (c) the provision of advice by any of the Law Officers or any request for the provision of such advice, or
 - (d) the operation of any Ministerial private office.
- (2) Once a decision as to government policy has been taken, any statistical information used to provide an informed background to the taking of the decision is not to be regarded—
 - (a) for the purposes of subsection (1)(a), as relating to the formulation or development of government policy, or
 - (b) for the purposes of subsection (1)(b), as relating to Ministerial communications.
- (3) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1).
- (4) In making any determination required by section 2(1)(b) or (2)(b) in relation to information which is exempt information by virtue of subsection (1)(a), regard shall be had to the particular public interest in the disclosure of factual information which has been used, or is intended to be used, to provide an informed background to decision-taking.
- (5) In this section—

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 35. (See end of Document for details)

“government policy” includes the policy of the Executive Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the policy of [^{F2}the Welsh Assembly Government];

“the Law Officers” means the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, the Advocate General for Scotland, the Lord Advocate, the Solicitor General for Scotland [^{F3}, the Counsel General to the Welsh Assembly Government] and the Attorney General for Northern Ireland;

“Ministerial communications” means any communications—

- (a) between Ministers of the Crown,
- (b) between Northern Ireland Ministers, including Northern Ireland junior Ministers, or
- (c) [^{F4}between members of the Welsh Assembly Government]

and includes, in particular, proceedings of the Cabinet or of any committee of the Cabinet, proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly, and proceedings of [^{F5}the Cabinet or any committee of the Cabinet of the Welsh Assembly Government];

“Ministerial private office” means any part of a government department which provides personal administrative support to a Minister of the Crown, to a Northern Ireland Minister or a Northern Ireland junior Minister or [^{F6}any part of the administration of the Welsh Assembly Government providing personal administrative support to the members of the Welsh Assembly Government];

“Northern Ireland junior Minister” means a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly appointed as a junior Minister under section 19 of the ^{M1}Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 35(1) substituted by [The Government of Wales Act 2006 \(Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/1388\)](#), art. 3, **Sch. 1 para. 81(2)** (the amendment coming into force immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) in accordance with art. 1(2)(3) of the amending S.I. and see [ss. 46, 161\(5\) of Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c. 32\)](#))
- F2** S. 35(5): words in definition of "government policy" substituted by [The Government of Wales Act 2006 \(Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/1388\)](#), art. 3, **Sch. 1 para. 81(3)(a)** (the amendment coming into force immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) in accordance with art. 1(2)(3) of the amending S.I. and see [ss. 46, 161\(5\) of Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c. 32\)](#))
- F3** S. 35(5): words in definition of "the Law Officers" substituted by [The Government of Wales Act 2006 \(Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/1388\)](#), art. 3, **Sch. 1 para. 81(3)(b)** (the amendment coming into force immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) in accordance with art. 1(2)(3) of the amending S.I. and see [ss. 46, 161\(5\) of Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c. 32\)](#))
- F4** S. 35(5): para. (c) in definition of "Ministerial communications" substituted by [The Government of Wales Act 2006 \(Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/1388\)](#), art. 3, **Sch. 1 para. 81(c)(i)** (the amendment coming into force immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) in accordance with art. 1(2)(3) of the amending S.I. and see [ss. 46, 161\(5\) of Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c. 32\)](#))

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- F5** S. 35(5): words in definition of "Ministerial communications" substituted by [The Government of Wales Act 2006 \(Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/1388\)](#), art. 3, [Sch. 1 para. 81\(c\)\(ii\)](#) (the amendment coming into force immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) in accordance with art. 1(2)(3) of the amending S.I. and see [ss. 46, 161\(5\)](#) of [Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c. 32\)](#))
- F6** S. 35(5): words in definition of "Ministerial private office" substituted by [The Government of Wales Act 2006 \(Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/1388\)](#), art. 3, [Sch. 1 para. 81\(d\)](#) (the amendment coming into force immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) in accordance with art. 1(2)(3) of the amending S.I. and see [ss. 46, 161\(5\)](#) of [Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c. 32\)](#))

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1998 c. 47.

Changes to legislation:

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