



London Borough of Camden
Information and Records
Management
Judd Street
London.
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e-mail:
foi@camden.gov.uk

Date: 11/03/2022

Case reference: CAM2963

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information dated 26/02/2022 about **our plans or contingencies in place if the Russian Federation attempt to annex Camden Square**. We have dealt with this under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council will neither confirm or deny holds the information requested. We have explained exemption applies. Please see the refusal notice below which explains how and why it applies.

Given the current situation I would like to know what plans or contingencies Camden Council have in place in the event that the Russian Federation attempt to annex Camden Square.

This information is exempt – please see the exemption notice set out below.

Refusal Notice

The exemption that applies is:

section 24(2) – National Security

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, exemption from 1(1)(a) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

We believe that telling requesters if we hold information about plans or contingencies we may have in place in the event of an attack by the Russian Federation will cause damage. This is because saying if we do or do not hold information would give Russia, or their operatives, insight into vulnerabilities which may, or may not, exist. Therefore, we use the exemption in section 24(2). This allows us to refuse to confirm or deny if the information is held. In other words, we are allowed to refuse to say if we hold information about this or not. When we use a neither confirm or deny response you should not assume that we do, or do not, hold any information.

The public interest arguments for releasing this information are: -

- releasing the information would help the public understand, in greater depth, whether we have any defence against Russia annexing Camden Square
- this would allow informed public scrutiny with regard to our defences and the spending of public funds

The public interest arguments for withholding the information are: -

- it is not in the public interest to release information on our defences which could be used by those who threaten, or wish to threaten, the UK by targeting certain areas and or individuals.
- disclosure is not in the public interest, because it undermines the ability of the UK armed forces by allowing those who would seek to undermine them to know where and how best to target their efforts
- It is not in the public interest to undermine National Security

It is considered that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Any future similar requests on this subject are very likely to require the same or similar answers - will serve no purpose - and so will accordingly be refused as vexatious under s14 of the Act.

Further Information

We do not give our consent for any names and contact details provided in this response to be sent marketing material. Any such use will be reported to the ICO as a breach of General Data Protection Regulations and the Privacy and Electronic Communication Regulations.

Why not check our Portal [Open Data Camden](#) before making a new request as your question may already be answered by a previous [FOI response](#) or in one of our many useful and interesting datasets.

Your Rights

If you are not happy with how your response was handled you can request an Internal Review within 2 months of this letter by email to foireviews@camden.gov.uk or post: Information and Records Management Team, London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE. Please quote your case reference number. If you are not satisfied with the Internal Review outcome you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office at casework@ico.org.uk telephone 0303 123 1113, or post to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. The ICO website www.ico.org.uk may be useful.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Williams

Information Rights Officer