

Cabinet Office Referral Criteria

Departments may refer complex or round robin FOI requests to the Cabinet Office for advice and guidance and particularly where requests relate to matters listed below:

- Significant policy development cases engaging both section 35/36 especially where there is a cross cutting interest
- Implementation of significant or high profile policy initiatives
- Cases involving high political sensitivity including confidence and supply agreement, passage of legislation, high profile policy issues, unauthorised disclosures of information
- Cabinet and Cabinet Committee documents (including correspondence)
- Ministers/very senior officials (past and present) including collective responsibility, conduct, diaries and personal information, cross-cutting scope.
- National Security
- Requests with a Royal interest
- Requests relating to current or former Prime Ministers and for correspondence with No 10
- Risk of international repercussions and information received from a foreign government or international body, including requests relating to the EU
- Sensitive information relating to major government projects and any reports of such projects (Project Assurance Reports / Gateway reviews)
- Honours and significant public appointments
- Expectation there will be significant wider interest in the topic of the request at the time
- Internal Reviews/ICO cases where the original case was referred
- ICO Decision Notices from cases not previously referred where Ministers decide to appeal or where the ICO order disclosure of sensitive information
- Tribunal Cases
- Round Robins and suspected Round Robins
- Requests where the boundary between FOI and EIR is involved
- Requests concerning Article 10 of the ECHR
- Refer requests for information in historical records that have been retained in departments where only a qualified exemption is engaged (Section 65)