



Home Office

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Mr Mark Taylor
request-471487-a29cffb5@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Ref: 47760
Date: 16th April 2018

Dear Mr Taylor

Public Interest Test – extension on current deadline giving more time to consider the request

Thank you for your email of 15th March 2018, in which you asked for information relating to the attempted murder of Sergei and Yulia Skripal via nerve agent in Salisbury on 4th March. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are considering your request. Although the Act carries a presumption in favour of disclosure, it provides exemptions which may be used to withhold information in specified circumstances. Some of these exemptions, referred to as 'qualified exemptions', are subject to a public interest test. This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour of withholding the information. The Act allows us to exceed the 20 working day response target where we need to consider the public interest test fully.

The information which you have requested is being considered under the exemptions in sections 24(1) and 31(1) of the Act, which relate to national security and law enforcement matters. These are qualified exemptions and to consider the public interest test fully we need to extend the 20 working day response period. We now aim to let you have a full response by 14th May 2018.

If you have any questions about the handling of your information request then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information
Home Office**

