

Request Reference: 67-17

Date of Response: 08/05/2017

Request

We refer to your recent email dated 16/04/2017 requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA"):

- 1) the total book value of loans sold to private investors or banks in the last 5 years*
- 2) what the price received was for loans sold to private investors*
- 3) how were these loans packaged*
- 4) what details were available to investors as part of their decision making*
- 5) were the terms of any loans changed as part of an agreement with investors*
- 6) are student loan holders offered the opportunity to match the best offer for their own loan."*

We contacted you on 18/04/2017 to confirm that questions 2-5 were for loans sold "in the last 5 years" and whether question 6 also referred to loans sold "in the last 5 years". You replied as follows:

". . . questions 2-5, I'd like to know the answers to those in relation to any loans sold under question 1.

With regard to question 6, again I was asking in relation to any loans sold to private investors."

Response

I can confirm that some, but not all, of the information you have requested is held by the Student Loans Company Limited ("SLC").

In the last five years there has been one UK Government student loan debt sale. This was the sale of the remaining mortgage style loans ("MS loans") to Erudio Student Loans Limited ("Erudio") in November 2013. MS loans were available to eligible Higher Education students who were enrolled between 1990 and 1998.

Question 1 and 2

This information is technically exempt from disclosure under section 21(1) of the FOIA because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. By way of explanation this information was released in a Ministerial Statement dated 25/11/2013 which is available online from:

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131125/wmstext/131125m0001.htm>. Please refer to the section with the title "Student Support" which details the information you have requested.

Question 3

The purpose of this debt sale was to sell the last of the MS loan accounts held by the then Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (“DBIS”). There was no selection process to pick and choose specific customers because all outstanding MS loans were included in this debt sale.

Question 4

This student loan debt sale was conducted by the Shareholder Executive (“ShEx”), which was part of DBIS, therefore SLC did not provide details to potential investors. In April 2016, the functions of ShEx were brought together with other Government functions to form UK Government Investments Limited (“UKGI”). UKGI may hold further information about details provided to potential investors. Should you require further information, contact information for UKGI can be found online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-government-investments>.

Question 5

No loan terms were changed as part of this debt sale.

Question 6

In the sale of MS loan accounts to Erudio, and to the two previous MS loan debt sales in 1998 and 1999, customers were not offered the opportunity to match the best offer for their own loan. The MS loans were sold as a package of loans to Erudio, and to the previous MS loan purchasers, they were not sold on an individual basis.