



Business, Innovation and Skills Committee

House of Commons, London SW1H 9NB

Tel 020 7219 5777 Email wrightjo@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/bis

20th April 2016

Dear Mr Donnelly,

We are writing on behalf of the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee and the Public Accounts Committee in response to your letter of 13 April regarding the BIS 2020 process.

Our committees have responsibilities to examine the administration and expenditure of your department. The information relating to the reorganisation of the department that you have provided so has been wholly unsatisfactory and your answers in oral evidence have been obfuscatory, if not misleading. Your refusal to disclose the information we have sought is unhelpful, unjustified and is impeding our ability to fulfil our scrutiny functions.

To be clear, and with reference to your letter, we are not asking for the specific decisions about the BIS jobs in Sheffield, nor for accurate figures about the distribution of posts within the department. Instead, we are asking for precise information about the work done to estimate the costs of different scenarios in relation to the closure of the Sheffield office and transfer of posts to London. Specifically, could you please provide us with a copy of the document entitled "BIS 2020 Finance and Headcount Outline", and any other document which has informed decisions relating to the Sheffield office.

It would be helpful to have this information prior to your appearance before the Public Accounts Committee on 27 April.

Mr Iain Wright MP
Chair, Business, Innovation and Skills Committee

Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee