Possible questions to ask of: The Secretary of State for Health: The Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP c/o Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS e-mail <u>dhmail@dh.gsi.gov.uk</u>

Freedom of Information Request – Common Purpose and training.

Dear Minister,

On the 4th February (Hansard column 1356W) your spokesperson Mr Bradshaw answered a question in The House from a Mr. Hoban concerning the provision of training for civil servants by external organisations. One of the organisations mentioned was Common Purpose.

The following questions apply to Common Purpose:

1. Please identify which departments have civil servants that have received training from Common Purpose.

2. For each department, please identify the number of civil servants, their position(s) within the department, and the cost of the training.

3. Please provide copies of the invoices for each civil servant trained.

Please be advised that all attendees of Common Purpose training courses agree that their names, position and employer may be used in the public domain. Accordingly, there are no issues of any requirement to withhold the names of those in receipt of training.

For taxpayers' money to be lawfully used for training, it must be shown that the costs incurred have accrued benefits to the taxpayer, and also to the 'customers' of the public service, otherwise such expenses would be illegal.

4. For those in receipt of training, please provide, with supporting documentation, the evidence of benefit to the taxpayer and customers of that training.

5. For each training package, please provide, with supporting documentation, the evidence showing that the statutory contract tendering process had been applied so as to determine Best Value (previously known as Compulsory Competitive Tendering).

6. Please show who authorised the Common Purpose training packages and demonstrate that those involved with the training procurement package were not in any way associated with Common Purpose.

Those that are in receipt of Common Purpose training become 'graduates' of Common Purpose and attend their networking meetings. The rules and constitution of Common Purpose meet the definition of a 'secret organisation' as directed by the Civil Service Code of Conduct, thus making declaration of 'graduates' mandatory.

7. Please provide an assessment of the costs to the taxpayer of the attendance of these graduates at Common Purpose meetings, which are held during taxpayer-funded time at taxpayer-funded premises using taxpayer-funded resources and hospitality.

8. Please provide the minutes of all meetings of Common Purpose that have been attended by civil servants within your purview.

9. Please provide a list of all civil servants who are graduates, officers, or associated with Common Purpose.

Because of this government's policy on openness, accountability and transparency, there is a requirement to demonstrate that these principles are upheld. Common Purpose is dependent upon secrecy for its operations.

10. Please provide the government policy document showing that the use of Common Purpose is legitimate.

11. Please show that the Common Purpose networking events and meetings are of benefit to the taxpayers and customers.

12. Please demonstrate that the decisions taken at the Common Purpose meetings, and which affect procedurally and financially the service their employers provide, are not only subject to statutory scrutiny, but also could *not* be made at open, transparent meetings without any need of Common Purpose, i.e. define, not least in terms of benefit to the taxpayer, the government's dependence upon the secrecy of Common Purpose as applied to those Civil Servants in receipt of training.

Yours sincerely,

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Notes

Please bear in mind that, as of today, the government requires your ISP's to record every e-mail contact, web search, sites visited, voicemail etc that you make. According to this institutionally corrupt government, every citizen is a potential terrorist, and has a duty of care to keep up such oppressive surveillance for our own good.

The above template can be adapted for all government departments, and also adapted for all local authorities.

Similar questions can be put to associated institutions and quangos, such as the Information Commissioner, Cabinet Office, police authorities,

For recipients of this and related material, please liaise (network)!