Will the Minister set out what the harm would be in allowing full transparency of these data? Surely there would be much greater harm if at the end of the referendum we were left with people feeling that it had been an unfair process.

Matthew Hancock The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General

The challenge of taking a position other than the one the Government have taken is that it would require civil servants to do work that was not in support of the Government's position. The Government have a position, and it is part of the civil service code, and it is put into law in the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, that civil servants should support the position of the Government. It would put civil servants in a very difficult position if we were to do anything other than that.

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