

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Investigation

To: Shan Morgan
Permanent Secretary

CC:

From: Allan Boyd
Chief Security Officer

Date: 24th January 2018

Leak Inquiry Report (Cabinet Reshuffle)

Background

On the 4th December 2017 the Chief Security Officer was commissioned to investigate *“whether there is any evidence of a prior unauthorised sharing of information – i.e. a “leak” - by the Welsh Government of information relating to the recent Ministerial reshuffle”*.

Inquiry Methodology

Investigations commenced immediately with the restoration of mailboxes of staff with prior knowledge of the reshuffle. A search of emails leaving or entering our ICT systems was made using key words.

Staff were given questionnaires to complete and, where necessary, this was followed up with an interview or interviews.

Interviews were also conducted with persons (internal and external to the Welsh Government) who volunteered information or who were identified as having information that was useful to the inquiry.

Inquiry Findings

The inquiry has not found any direct electronic evidence of information being sent from Welsh Government officials to unauthorised recipients.

There is evidence that information was shared between some Labour members of parliament and an assembly member immediately prior to Mr Sargeant’s meeting with the First Minister.

Summary

Some identities have not been revealed to the Chief Security Officer to protect their anonymity. Witnesses have also sought to protect the identities of some individuals. There have also been a number of times that accounts by individuals have conflicted or had differing interpretation.

Some information about the nature of the allegations made against Mr Sargeant and his removal from the Cabinet were circulating prior to the First Minister meeting him on the 3rd November 2017.

All Welsh Government disclosures of this information have been investigated and found to be authorised disclosures.

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Some information shared was not part of the remit of this inquiry.

Conclusion

There is no evidence of a prior unauthorised sharing of information by the Welsh Government of information relating to the recent Ministerial reshuffle.

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