

If Ministers undertake to place a copy of a letter, or extra information, in the Library of the House of Commons, s/he will say so, in pretty much exactly those words. It's a formal undertaking. Only ministers can deposit papers in the Library. These are called Deposited Papers and the Library has been receiving them in hard copy for many years.

They are not in the least secret, merely rather inaccessible and pretty often spectacularly dull.

Since the start of the 2007/08 session, the Library receives them in electronic version (only). This innovation opens up the murky world of deposits to public scrutiny, and shuts up the conspiracy theorists.

They are available online through <http://deposits.parliament.uk>. They are put on line on there as they are received and are not therefore necessarily not in strict date order, nor are they seperated by Department. Papers prior to 2007/08 are still held as hard copies.