

P. John
request-10666-34812142@whatdotheyknow.com
(by email only)

11 June 2009

Dear P. John

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I am writing in response to your email of 28 April 2009, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Please could you disclose the acknowledgement received by Chris Wright from the Police in response to that letter?

The letter referred to is that sent from Chris Wright, Director, Security and Intelligence in the Cabinet Office, to Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick of the Metropolitan Police Service reporting suspected leaks from the Home Office, as identified in our response to your earlier request (ref. FOI264669).

I can confirm that Cabinet Office holds information relevant to your request.

A copy of the information which may be released to you is attached at Annex A.

Some of the information requested is exempt from release under sections 31(1) (Law enforcement), 38(1) (Health and safety) and 40(2) (Personal information) of the Act.

Exemptions under sections 31 and 38 of the Act are qualified, meaning that I must consider whether the balance of public interest favours disclosing or withholding the exempted information. There is a general public interest in the transparency of operations and decision making across public authorities. However, there is a very strong degree of public interest in the maintenance of the police's ability to conduct investigations. In this case, the disclosure of information held could undermine this ability in future and place individuals at risk. I am therefore satisfied that the balance of public interest favours the application of these exemptions.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number below in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your



request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Sue Gray
Director
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

E-mail: foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision, unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Moran

pp **YASMINE EDWARDS**



Annex A

Letter dated 9th October 2008, from Robert F Quick, Assistant Commissioner, Specialist Operations, to Chris Wright, Director, Security and Intelligence in the Cabinet Office

Dear Chris

Thank you for your letter dated 8th September 2008 regarding a series of information leaks. I have delayed writing in response to allow various meetings to take place between my senior investigation officer and Cabinet Office officials. I believe that we are now in a position to take these matters forward.

[Redacted] of Counter Terrorism Command is extremely experienced in covert investigations and will oversee the Metropolitan Police involvement. If you would like to discuss these issues or have any particular concerns to [sic] not hesitate to contact me. I will of course take a personal interest in how this matter develops.

Yours sincerely

Robert F Quick
Assistant Commissioner
Specialist Operations