



HM TREASURY

1 Horse Guards Road London SW1A 2HQ

Information Rights Unit

Simon Klood

Tel: 0207 270 4558

Fax: 0207 270 4861

By email: request-11061-
155e6b26@whatdotheyknow.com

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk
foi.responses@hm-treasury.gsi.gov.uk

Ref: 9/392

15 June 2009

Dear Mr Klood

Freedom of Information Act 2000: HMRC correspondence

Thank you for your enquiry dated 20 May following on our response the previous day.

2. Without wishing to seem unhelpful, I do not think there is anything further that HM Treasury can do for you under the FOI Act. We have reviewed the handling of your request and it seems to be in order: our response of 19 May was prompt and well within the statutory deadline. It explained our difficulties in addressing your request, but confirmed to the best of our knowledge and belief that we did not hold the sort of information you required.

3. Your follow-up does not suggest any new avenues for us to explore. It seems clear that you are asking about HMRC detailed operational issues. HMRC is a separate authority from the Treasury and they are statutorily bound to preserve taxpayer confidentiality; Treasury officials do not have access accordingly to their systems. When you say that you do not believe HMRC's answers, it suggests that you are looking to the Treasury to act in the role of arbitrator and we cannot do that.

4. You have not indicated whether you have made an FOI request to HMRC for the computer code or for their guidance to staff on operating the self assessment system - a request under the Data Protection Act would result in the release to you of your personal data but would be unlikely to include this guidance. If you have not done so you may wish to consider this as a next step.

5. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of an FOI request to HMRC you are able to ask them to review their response, as you have to us. Alternatively, if you believe your dealings with HMRC have been mishandled, then it is open to you to follow their complaints procedure – see guidance at the following link:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/dealingwith/complain.htm>



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

6. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. It will be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.



Paul Morran
Information Rights Unit

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email foi.responses@hm-treasury.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter. It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.