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BY EMAIL

13 November 2008

Dear Mr Griffiths,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 259412

Thank you for your request for information about Security Industry Authority (SIA) licenses issues to the Cabinet Office Guard Service. Your request was received on 16 October 2008 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In your request you asked:

Did the Cabinet Office Finance Director General Mr Roger Marsh come to an agreement with EcovertFM security that prior to privatisation the Cabinet Office Guard Service had to be SIA licensed and that this would be paid for out of the Public Purse?

No such agreement was made.

The Departmental Security Unit organised SIA licence training between November 2006 and February 2007 for the Cabinet Office Guard Service as good practice and as part of our commitment to investing in people. Following successful completion of the training, SIA licence applications were prepared, submitted, and paid for by the Cabinet Office. The decision to do this was independent and separate from any consideration of outsourcing.



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

email: 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,

JERRY PAGE