



Request-12173-c0c177d2@whatdotheyknow.com

2 July 2009

Dear Mr Canning

Freedom of Information Internal Review of Request

In an email dated 19 May 2009 you asked the House of Lords administration to provide you with information relating to how you could request a public inquiry into your complaint regarding RSPB membership by members of the House of Lords and discussion of proposed legislation relating to the protection of birds. In a letter dated 2 June 2009, Frances Grey, the House of Lords Freedom of Information Officer, stated that the information that you had requested was not held by the House of Lords and was therefore not available for disclosure. In an email dated 21 June 2009 you requested that an internal review be conducted because the response provided to you did not address the issues you raised in your email of 19 May 2009. I have been asked to conduct the internal review as I have not previously been involved in dealing your request.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides the public with a general right of access to recorded information held by a public authority. The Act does not oblige a public authority to create information in order to respond to requests or answer questions posed by applicants. On that basis, and having reviewed your request I have concluded that the House of Lords administration is not able to comply with your request on the grounds that it does not hold any recorded information relating to how an individual can request a public inquiry into the type complaint you have expressed.

In addition and in compliance with section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance to applicants; Frances Grey, in her letter of 2 June 2009, advised you that should you wish to contact them your MP may be able to offer some assistance with your enquiry. Having considered your request and associated questions I once more recommend that you contact your MP as they may be better placed to assist you with your enquiry.

Right of appeal

If you wish to take this matter further, Part 4 of the Act provides that you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether your request has been dealt with in

accordance with the requirements of Part 1. The Information Commissioner's address is Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details about the Commissioner and his role may be found at www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Shenton', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Shenton
Clerk of the Records