

18 August 2008

## **FOI REQUEST 257821**

Dear Mr Griffiths,

Thank you for your email of 20 July, asking for information about refurbishment at 10 Downing Street. Your request is being dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Government is legally required to maintain the Downing Street complex, comprising Numbers 10, 11 and 12, to standards appropriate to its Grade 1-2 listed status, in consultation with English Heritage. In addition to providing office accommodation, the building also fulfils an important representational role.

No significant refurbishment works have been undertaken at the Downing Street complex since the large scale rebuilding works that took place between 1960 and 1963. As a result much of the infrastructure now needs to be renewed or upgraded. It has therefore been recommended that essential improvements are undertaken through on-going annual maintenance works.

Expenditure on maintenance and renovation for 10 and 11 Downing Street is included in the Cabinet Office annual accounts and is not reported separately. Resource accounts for the Cabinet Office are laid annually before the House of Commons under sections 6 and 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. They are then published.

This information is reasonably accessible to you in the House Library or from The Stationary Office and exempt under section 21 of the Act. We are not therefore obliged to provide it to you. You can access the Cabinet Office accounts from The



Stationary Office's website and they can also be downloaded from the Cabinet Office website -

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications/reports/annualreport/2008/cabinet\\_office\\_annual\\_report\\_0708%20pdf.ashx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications/reports/annualreport/2008/cabinet_office_annual_report_0708%20pdf.ashx)

Turner and Townsend were employed as the lead consultancy company through a government framework contract.

The Prime Minister's Office does not hold any information on a reception held on 23 June 2006.

Yours sincerely

**JERRY PAGE**