

Dr Kaihsu Tai

Our Ref: FOI 257 929

25 July 2008

(by email: request-1330-16b93f7f@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Dr Tai,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your email requesting a list of Cabinet members from the Co-operative Party since 1997, with their time of office in Cabinet and portfolio. The Cabinet Office received your request on 23 July 2008 and I have dealt with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I must inform you that the Cabinet Office is unable to comply with your request. The Cabinet Office does not hold information on the political affiliations of members of the Cabinet.

I feel sure that the most promising source of the information you seek is likely to be the Co-operative Party itself. Although the Party is not governed by the Freedom of Information Act, I am sure it would provide the information you have asked for, if it has it available. You can find contact details for the Co-operative Party on its website (<http://www.party.coop>).

If the Co-operative Party is unable to provide you with the information you seek, you could ascertain the membership of the cabinet over this period and the offices they held by consulting David & Gareth Butler's British Political Facts Since 1979. To the best of my knowledge the most recent edition is 2005 and provides the members of all the Cabinets appointed by Mr Blair. Membership of the current cabinet is, of course, listed on the Cabinet Office website (<http://www.number10.gov.uk/output/Page1371.asp>). You could then check the members of the Cabinet against their entries on the Parliamentary website (<http://www.parliament.uk/directories/hciolists/alms.cfm>), their individual homepages, and their entries in reference works such as Who's Who or at Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). I hope you find these suggestions helpful.

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



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

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Jenkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Jenkins
Histories, Openness and Records Unit