



# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr Ganesh Sittampalam  
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6 December 2010

*Dr Ganesh Sittampalam*

Thank you for your recent e-mail.

As set out in my letter of 19 November, I enclose a copy of all correspondence between Mr Djanogly MP and the Department of Resources Operations Directorate (the so called "Fees Office") covered by the period of your request where not already published on our web pages, subject to relevant exemptions under the Act.

Information has been removed from the correspondence where it does not fall within the scope of your request; is not subject to the provisions of the FOI Act 2000 by virtue of the section 7 Order dated 23 July 2008 (which includes residential addresses); or, where its disclosure to you would constitute a breach of the data protection principles. In the case of the latter example this information is exempt by virtue of the provisions of section 40(2) (a) and (b) and section 40(3) (a) and access to this data is refused. This is an absolute exemption and the public interest test does not apply.

I understand from the Information Commissioner's office that you have also requested an acknowledgment about redactions which were carried out in the June 2009 publication. In order to resolve this matter, I confirm that the House of Commons has always endeavoured to process Freedom of Information requests fully in accordance with the requirements of the FOI Act 2000. In the case of information about the allowances, a decision was taken to release detailed information about claims made by all MPs, regardless of whether or not a request had been made about specific individuals. This was a voluntary and extremely large undertaking, which involved the processing of around one million documents.

During that process, the legitimate interests of all data subjects had to be taken into account and the processing was undertaken in accordance with FOI principles to the best of our endeavours. The House accepts that, regrettably, despite the best efforts of those involved, in some cases the redactions applied for the June 2009 publication went beyond those to which an exemption might properly be applied. Subsequent to publication, requests for additional information have been met and our redaction guidance has been reviewed and revised to ensure that all redactions can be justified in terms of the exemptions set out in the FOIA.

I believe that this deals with both outstanding issues and I trust that this case is now resolved.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RESOURCES ANDREW WALKER CPFA

JANET RISSEN (BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT) CHRIS RIDLEY MBA FCCA (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)

EDWARD WOOD (TRANSITION AND OPERATIONS) BONNIE MOHAN MCIPS (COMMERCIAL SERVICES)

HEATHER BRYSON MA FCIPD (HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT)

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

I am aware that a second complaint is still outstanding with the Information Commissioner. We are in discussions with the Commissioner about that case and shall contact you again as soon as possible.

how much

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AJ Walker', written in a cursive style.

A J Walker  
Director General of Resources