



Home Office

**Information Access Team
Information Management Service
Financial & Commercial Group**

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Mr. Christopher Senior
request-13935-a36ab8c6@whatdotheyknow.com

Case Ref: **CR 12302**
Date: **29th July 2009**

Dear Mr. Senior,

Thank you for your email of the 1st July 2009 in which you requested access to information held by the Home Office in regards to the Written Answer provided by Phil Woolas MP on the 30th June 2009 on Consultancy Costs.

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We are now in a position to provide you with a substantive response to your request.

After a thorough search, I regret to inform you that the Home Office does not hold the information that you have requested.

I realise that this response may be a disappointment to you. However I would like to assure you that a thorough search was conducted and that I am confident that we do not hold the information that you asked for.

You may be interested to learn that, under Home Office Commercial Directorate procedures, it is an explicit requirement that approval is obtained from our Human Resources division before consultants are engaged. This mandated procedure guards against the inappropriate use of external resources when suitably skilled internal resources are available.

The following information is available on the Home Office website that might be of interest to you.

- Home Office Standard Terms and Conditions for Consultancy - <http://commercial.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/consultancy.pdf>
- Home Office Consultancy Expenditure - http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/foi-archive-about-us/9278_consultancy_expenditure

If you are unable to access or view this information, please let me know and I will be happy to send you a hard copy.

Thank you for your interest in the Home Office.

Yours sincerely,

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

Ian Lister
Information Access Consultant
Information Access Team

ANNEX A – Your Right of Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting your complaint within two months to the below address quoting the case reference number at the top of this letter

*Information Access Team
Information Management Service
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF*

Alternatively you can email info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

During the independent review the department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by an official who was not involved in providing you with this response. Should you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.