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Ref:09FOI 270

4 September 2009

David Jones

[request-14887-](#)

[42e242cx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx](#)

Dear Mr Jones

Thank you for your letter of 1 September, requesting an internal review of Wales Office's handling of your Freedom of Information request "recruitment".

I will of course now conduct the necessary review, and respond to you as soon as I can. I cannot say precisely how long it will take. I am leaving Wales Office at the end of this month, and I shall endeavour to deal with this before I go, not leaving it unresolved for my successor.

Our reply to your request acknowledged that it was outside the statutory deadline, explained that this was because key staff were away in August, and apologised. I should like to offer my own personal apology for this Office's failure to meet the deadline.

You make a very serious allegation, of deliberate misinterpretation of your request in order to avoid answering truthfully, which I take very seriously. I should find it deeply disturbing if, on investigation, I were to find that it had been so.

It appears from your letter, especially the reference to knowing of many more cases, that you have some specific concern in mind. I am keen to ensure that I can investigate thoroughly and direct myself fully to your concerns. It must be for you to choose what you are ready to tell me, but I believe it would help me to give you a better answer if you were willing to share with me any more specific information which has given rise to your distrust of my Office's honesty in handling your request.

Would you be ready to elaborate a little, in a message, or in private discussion, to aid my review?

Alan Cogbill
Director

Cardiff Office / Swyddfa Caerdydd

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