



HM TREASURY

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28 September 2009

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www.hm-treasury.gov.uk
FOI.responses@hm-treasury.gsi.gov.uk

Ref: 9/748

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: Dun & Bradstreet

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 30 August 2009.

2. You asked for –

- *confirmation that five entries you cited from Dun & Bradstreet have nothing to do with this government department*
- *confirmation that HM Treasury is a government body as opposed to merely a private company*
- *or else the name of the HM Treasury parent company.*

3. The Freedom of Information Act provides for access to recorded information. Following a search of our records I confirm that we have found no recorded information that addresses your request. I would emphasise that it is generally difficult to respond to a request which requires a public authority to confirm the accuracy or otherwise of a particular statement. Forming a view as to whether recorded information could be said to provide confirmation of the truth or otherwise of a particular statement will often entail a subjective judgement by officials and is therefore very unlikely to come within the scope of the Act.

4. But I am concerned you may think this is some sort of ruse on our part to avoid your question. This is not the case and I hope the following comments will be helpful to you. I can confirm that Treasury Chambers is another name for 'Government Offices Great George Street', which is occupied by the Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs and has two postal addresses, one in Parliament Street and the other in Horse Guards Road. Finlaison House is the address of the Government Actuary's Department, which is one of the Chancellor's departments, although it is a non-ministerial department. Eastcheap Court is the address of the Debt Management Office, which is an office of the Treasury. And Allington Court is a former address of the Treasury. It may be that Dun and Bradstreet is using headquarters addresses as proxies for legal entities and that this is becomes misleading in relation to government bodies. But I should not speculate and we cannot answer for Dun and Bradstreet information.

5. I can confirm that HM Treasury is a government body, although in answer to other enquiries, we have been mildly surprised ourselves to discover that there did exist in the first half of the twentieth century, a trading corporation under the auspices of the Treasury. I can also confirm in relation to your third point that the only parent entity of the Treasury – though I think not in the sense you mean - is the Crown.



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6. You can read more about arms-length bodies of the Treasury in our annual report and accounts at – http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/dep_perf_reports_index.htm

7. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. It will be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.



Paul Morran
Information Rights Unit

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email FOI.responses@hm-treasury.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

