



Email: request-17693-70ab8b9d@what do they know.com

Ref: FOI 268451

23 October 2009

Dear Mr M Bimmler,

Thank you for your email, which we received on 7 September 2009. I apologise for not replying before now. In your correspondence, you stated:

"I request access to all records held by the Cabinet Office or the Prime Minister's Office in connection with the negotiations of a Prisoner Transfer Agreement with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

If the amount of documents is too large to evaluate under the cost threshold provision of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I ask you to restrict this query only to documents created in December 2007".

I am writing to advise you that the time limit for responding to your request needs to be extended due to the fact that it engages certain qualified exemptions in the Freedom of the Information Act.

The specific exemptions, which apply in relation to your request, are:

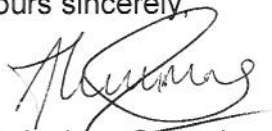
- Section 27 International Relations.
- Section 35 Formulation of government policy.
- Section 42 Legal professional privilege.

The information is exempt under Section 27(1)(a) because disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and another State, under Section 35(1)(a) because it relates to the formulation or development of Government policy and under 41(1) because the claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. In applying these sections, we need to consider the balance of public interest in disclosing or withholding the information. By virtue of section 10(3), when public authorities have to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to a request, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances. Due to the need to consider, in all the circumstances of the case, where the balance of the public interest lies in relation to your request, we will not be able to respond to your request in full within twenty working days.



I consider that it will take additional 20 working days from today's date in order to reach a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 20 November 2009. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Cummings', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Andrew Cummings

