

14 October 2009

Ms Janine Baker
(request-18100-16d6833e@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Ms Baker,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I am writing regarding your request for information, which I received on 16 September 2009. In that request, you ask how long the Cabinet Office takes to process Internal Reviews under the FOI Act, and ask us to provide the following information;

For each Internal Review requested under the Freedom of Information Act received by your Department, please can you provide the following information:

- *Date request for Internal Review was received by the Cabinet Office*
- *Date a substantive response was provided to the requester (ie not just an acknowledgement)*

Please also include in the response any Internal Reviews requested which are currently awaiting a response.

I should like this information going back for as long a time period as is possible within the costs limit, starting with Internal Reviews which are awaiting response and going back chronologically by the date substantive responses were provided.

I can confirm that the Cabinet Office holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that complying with your request as a whole exceeds the appropriate cost limit of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

If you were to refine your request by narrowing its scope, for example, narrowing your request to a time period of six months or less, it may be that we could comply with that request within the appropriate limit, although I cannot guarantee that this



will be the case.

You might find the following link to the Information Commissioner's guidance on internal reviews helpful.

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/practical_application/internal%20reviewsv1.pdf

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Sue Gray
Director
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Y Edwards

YASMINE EDWARDS

