



HM TREASURY

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

07 December 2009

Information Rights Unit

Tel: 0207 270 4558

Fax: 0207 270 4861

www.hmtreasury.gov.uk

FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Ref: IRU 9/938

John Walker

By email: request-22935-b2d49d8d@whatdotheyknow.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: Sale of Government Assets

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 09 November 2009.

You asked for –

... copies of the policy documents for the sale of these assets [£16 billion worth as reported in the news] including details of the tendering process and how the sales are advertised.

I can confirm we hold information in scope of your request however, we have identified this information as falling within section 35(1)(a) (policy formulation) and section 43(2) (commercial interests) of the FoI Act. These are qualified exemptions and we are required to balance the public interest between disclosure and non-disclosure. By virtue of section 10(3) of the Act, where 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.

We always aim to reply to requests in full, even when the balancing of the public interest is required; however in this case, the Treasury has not yet resolved the conflicting considerations. We therefore need to take some additional time to assess whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. We estimate that we will reply by 07 January 2010.

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.

Information Rights Unit
HM Treasury



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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@hmtreasury.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.

