

20 April 2010

Ganesh Sittampalam

Request-23135-bcfdaf29@whatdotheyknow.com

(by email only)

*Dear Mr Sittampalam,***REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
2000**

Thank you for your email of 11 December 2009 requesting an internal review of the handling of your request for information in connection with the Prime Minister's response to the e-petition concerning the provision of childcare vouchers.

First, may I apologise for the delay in replying.

I have now reviewed the handling of your request.

As you state the reply sent to you should have been explicit as to whether any information that you have requested is held by the Prime Minister's Office. I can confirm that the Prime Minister's office does not hold any information falling within the scope of your request.

You go on to say that "*the claim I referred to was made by the Prime Minister, not the Chancellor. Surely he must have had some document to back up this claim before made it?*".

It might be helpful if I explain that the principle of collective responsibility applies to all statements made by any Government minister and reflect collective Government responsibility.

As you will be aware e-petitions on the Downing Street website cover issues across the whole of Government. Consequently the relevant Government Department will be asked to provide a response to an e-petition where the policy falls within its responsibility.

In this instance that response was provided by HM Treasury. The reply to your FoI request therefore sought to be helpful by directing you to the Treasury to see what information it might hold in relation to your request.



For ease of reference I have set out its address again:

Freedom of Information Unit
HM Treasury
Treasury Chambers
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A2HQ

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request for information you, have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely,

Zara Smart

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