



HM TREASURY

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26 January 2010

Lisa Evans

Information Rights Unit

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

Ref: IRU 9/1058

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: COINS database

Thank you for your enquiry dated 31 December 2009 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. You asked for –

- *the contract with Information Edge for the COINS database;*
- *the minutes of meetings and email exchanges between the Treasury and Information Edge relating to the COINS database.*

3. The Treasury has had dealings with Information Edge for five or more years, and quite a large number of current and past officials have had meetings or e-mail dealings with the company in that time. As you have not specified a timeframe for the information on meetings and e-mail exchanges, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit, which has been specified in regulations for central government and set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Treasury holds the information and locating and extracting the information. This cost limit also includes the part of your request relating to a contract with Information Edge. Under section 12 of the Act, departments are not obliged to comply with requests in these circumstances if the appropriate limit is exceeded.

4. If you were to narrow your request to a specific time period, or reduce the scope in some other way, it may be that we would be able to search for the information requested within the cost limit. However, in the event that such a search was possible within the cost limits, it may be that exemptions under the Act may be engaged.

5. If you wish to refine your request, you may find it helpful to know that the Treasury does not have a contract with Information Edge relating to the COINS database. The Treasury does have a contract with a company named Descisys, which is the parent company of Information Edge, relating to the COINS database. The relationship with Descisys goes back nearly ten years and pre-dates Information Edge being established as the British based subsidiary of Descisys.



6. 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@hmtreasury.gsi.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.

