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20 May 2008

Sent via e-mail

Dear Richard,

Reference: FOI255854

This letter relates to your request for information of Tuesday 22nd April 2008 and which I received on Thursday 24th April 2008, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). In that request, you asked:

“Would you please be so kind as to inform me at what temperature the central heating is set in all government departments offices. Are there either guidelines or a maximum temperature that individual departments may set their central heating? Do the same rules apply to local government/councils etal?”

The Cabinet Office is not in a position to respond on behalf of central and local government as each department and local authority is responsible for setting the temperature of their own cooling and heating systems. However, we suspect that this is mainly done in line with Health & Safety requirements and taking into account environmental considerations.

The temperature in Cabinet Office buildings is normally set at 23 degrees where it can be centrally controlled.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Nigel Hutcheon (nigel.hutcheon@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk). 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:

Howell James CBE
Permanent Secretary, Government Communication
Cabinet Office
26 Whitehall
Ripley Building
London
SW1A 2WH

e-mail: howell.james@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

JERRY PAGE