

Ms Barbara Whittle
By email
request-27825-9a3c267a@whatdotheyknow.com

Please quote: JB/FOIA
Direct line: 01626 831031

4 February 2010

Dear Ms Whittle

Information Request – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write with reference to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request was received by email on 26 January 2010 in the following terms:

What is your freepost / Business Reply address? (include all locations of your organisation and also business reply licences)

The right under the Freedom of Information Act to request official information held by public bodies is subject to certain restrictions and exemptions. The Authority is under a legal duty to deal with your application in accordance with the legislation and in particular to provide a response as soon as practicable

The enclosed Decision Notice sets out the Authority's response to your request, together with a statement of reasons for the decision. It also includes a summary of your rights if you feel aggrieved by the Authority's decision.

Yours sincerely

Janet Biles
Office Manager
email: jbiles@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



Freedom of Information Act 2000

DECISION NOTICE

Applicant: Ms Barbara Whittle

Subject of request: as per email

Date received: 26 January 2010

DECISION

1. Duty to Confirm or Deny

The Authority confirms that it holds information relating to freepost addresses and licenses.

2. Disclosure

The Authority hereby discloses that it has two freepost addresses, one for first class mail and one for second class mail. Both addresses are for the same location. These addresses are used under one licence with Royal Mail. In pursuance of section 43(2) of the Act, the Authority declines to furnish details of the freepost licence numbers and addresses, as being exempt information

REASONS

The right under the Freedom of Information Act to request official information held by public bodies (the "*right to know*") is subject to certain statutory restrictions and exemptions.

Section 43 (2) of the Act provides an absolute exemption from the *right to know* where release of the information requested is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity.)

Freepost addresses are used by the Authority to enable the return of questionnaires, surveys and other responses specifically requested by the Authority without a cost to the sender. All other forms of correspondence are directed to Authority addresses using paid postage. The Authority believes that disclosure of freepost addresses and licence numbers would facilitate the use of these addresses without its consent. This

would incur additional costs and have a detrimental impact on the Authority's finances. It would also constitute an unjustified use of public money.

The Authority therefore concludes that the balance of public interest is in favour of withholding this information

YOUR RIGHTS

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives you the right to know whether or not information is held by the Authority and the right to have that information communicated to you in a comprehensible form. A request for information under the Act must be dealt with before the expiry of the 20 day period starting on the day after a valid request is received and the appropriate fee is paid.

If you are aggrieved by the Decision and/or by the way you have been treated by any Officer of the Authority you should put your complaint in writing, marked "*Private and Confidential - Complaint*" to Dr.K.Bishop, Chief Executive, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Parke, Haytor Road, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon. TQ13 9JQ.

You can complain to the Information Commissioner on any of the following grounds:

- failure to provide the information you requested
- failure to respond to your request within 20 working days (or failure to explain why longer than 20 working days is needed)
- failure to give you proper advice and assistance
- failure to give information in the form in which you requested it
- failure to properly explain any reasons for refusing the request
- failure to correctly apply an exemption under the Act

The Information Commissioner recommends that firstly, you should complain directly to the public authority itself. Only if the authority has no complaints procedure, or if you do not believe it has dealt with your complaint properly, should you contact the Information Commissioner. You should do this as soon as possible and in any case within two months following the final response of the public authority.

FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF