



Home Office

Information Rights Team
Shared Services Directorate
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Switchboard 020 7035 4848

E-mail: Info.Access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Mr Paul Griffiths
request-2795-7faff87c@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: 10168
Date: 19 September 2008

Dear Mr Griffiths,

I am writing further to my correspondence of 3 September 2008 regarding your information request dated 2 September 2008. Your request has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a request for information.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with any information request where the prescribed costs of supplying you with the information exceed £600. The £600 limit applies to all central government departments and is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 3½ days work per request. Prescribed costs include those which cover the cost of locating and retrieving information, and preparing our response to you. They do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or disbursements such as photocopying or postage.

We hold no information relating to a contract with Ecovert FM as the Department holds no such contract. We hold information in which you may be interested in relation to a PFI contract with Anne's Gate Property plc (AGP), Ecovert FM has an indirect sub-contract from AGP for the operation of 2 Marsham Street.

We have estimated that the cost of answering your request if it applied to the AGP contract would exceed the £600 limit and we are therefore unable to comply with it. This is due to the large number of files that exist in storage regarding the procurement and tendering process for this complex contract. In order to retrieve the information you have requested all of these files will need to be re-called from archive services and a search of the requested documents undertaken. Some of the information held may be covered by the confidentiality undertakings contained in the contract with AGP and this would require to be selectively removed before release. It is this exercise that will

exceed the cost limit. However, under our duty to assist all applicants I can provide you with the following information.

In relation to the last part of your request I can inform you that AGP were awarded the Home Office PFI contract in 2002 which we believe was before EcovertFM were awarded a facility management contract at the Cabinet Office.


You may also be interested in a report entitled '*PFI: The New Headquarters of the Home Office*', by the Comptroller and Auditor General of the National Audit Office (NAO), which provides information on the selection of the PFI supplier and can be found on the NAO's website at the following link – <http://www.nao.org.uk/dtSearch/dtisapi6.dll>.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting your complaint within two months to the above address quoting reference 10168.

During the independent review the department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. Should you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

I realise that this reply may be a disappointment to you, but I look forward to hearing from you again shortly should you wish to refine your request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bragaglia', written over a horizontal line.

John Bragaglia
Information Access Consultant