

Department for **Transport**

Ms D Drysdale
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Our Ref: F0004542

13 October 2008

FOI Request – Gaul Enquiry

Dear Ms Drysdale,

Thank you for the Freedom of Information request about Secretary of State's position on rehearing the inquiry into the loss of Gaul, which you submitted electronically on 11th September 2008. I apologise for the delay in our acknowledgement and final response.

You requested "a full account of the reasoning (of whatever kind and however held or expressed) behind the Secretary of State's decision not to re-open the Gaul Formal Investigation".

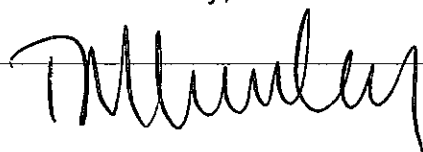
The Department does not hold such an account in recorded form. The Freedom of Information Act does not require that public authorities create and record information following a request made under the Act.

We are, however, seeking to address the issues that you raise outside of the FOI regime by preparing a comprehensive statement of the Secretary of State's position on the matter of the Gaul inquiry. We expect to send this statement to you shortly.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to me at the above address. Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,



Theresa Crossley

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, 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
