


16 April 2010

Royal Mail Group

Mr Richard Cook

By Email: request-30911-

Freedom of Information Unit
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Royal Mail Sheffield
Pond Street
Sheffield
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www.royalmail.com

Dear Mr Cook

Re: Freedom of Information Request

I am writing in response to your request for information which was submitted online on 17th March 2010. We have considered your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You submitted the following request:

"Please can you tell me how much money the Group spends on rubber bands used by postmen/women to bundle mail for delivery?"

Royal Mail uses rubber bands because they are necessary when it comes to effective sorting and delivering the mail. Royal Mail does re-use many millions of rubber bands each year and we know the vast majority are recycled within delivery offices and mail centres. We regularly remind our postmen and women through official guidance, staff newsletters and at face-to-face, team briefings of the importance of avoiding litter and the benefits of re-using bands. The rubber bands we use are designed to be more biodegradable than the normal rubber brown bands, rotting away naturally over time, and this is intending to help minimise any impact on the environment.

The annual amount spent on Rubber Bands has previously been published by Royal Mail. During the 2008/2009 financial year Royal Mail Group spent a total of £1,058.152 on rubber bands. This figure is the latest available for a complete year. You asked for us to break these figures down by region and provide specifically the figures for Cardiff. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a regional break down of the annual amount spent in 2008/09 – this information is not held by Royal Mail. Royal Mail has only recently this year begun to record such figures at regional level.

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I hope that this suitably answers your request. If for any reason you are not satisfied with this response, you do have the right to request a review. If you wish to do so please set out in writing your grounds of appeal and send to the Head of Information Compliance, Royal Mail Group, Company Secretary's Office, 100 Victoria Embankment, LONDON, EC4Y 0HQ. An internal panel will then review the decision, and you will be advised of the outcome.

If you decide to appeal and are still not satisfied with our response you also have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Kate Fearn
Freedom of Information Case Officer
