

Mr Steve Elibank  
By email: [request-3101124ffe613@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-3101124ffe613@whatdotheyknow.com)

14 April 2010

Dear Mr Elibank

**Re: Request for Information: Rabbinical Commission for the Licensing of Shochetim**

I refer to your requests of 18 March 2010 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act') addressed to both the Meat Hygiene Service ('MHS') and this Agency regarding the above that can be seen on the [whatdotheyknow.com](http://whatdotheyknow.com) website.

As you know, the MHS received your request on 18 March and replied on 25 March stating that none of the information you requested is held. (That reply can also be seen on the [whatdotheyknow.com](http://whatdotheyknow.com) website.)

Due to an oversight, we omitted to explain in the reply that the MHS was an Executive Agency of this Agency, and that under the FOI Act, the MHS and this Agency were considered to be a single public authority. Therefore, FOI requests addressed to either body were treated as requests to both. In addition, I would advise you that as of 1 April this year, the MHS ceased to be a separate body (agency) and was merged with this Agency.

Regarding your separate request to this Agency, that does not appear to have been received by us, as no one in the FSA has contacted the FOI Team to log it.

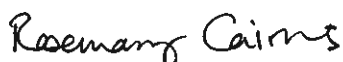
Therefore, I am writing to advise you to treat the MHS' response of 25 March as a response from both the MHS and this Agency. I trust that this letter will enable the [whatdotheyknow.com](http://whatdotheyknow.com) website to show that the request to this Agency has been responded to.

If you have any queries about the contents of this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number 859 in any future communications.

If you are not satisfied with the way the Agency has handled your request for information, you should write within two calendar months of the date of this letter to the Openness Team, and ask for an internal review. They will arrange for the Complaints Coordinator to conduct the review. Their address is Food Standards Agency, Room 2C Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6NH (email: [Openness.team@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Openness.team@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Agency. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through the website at: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



Rosemary Cairns  
FSA Openness Team

