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James Spencer

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**Our ref: FOI006342**

12 May 2010

Dear Mr Spencer,

**Freedom of Information Act request – internal review**

I am responding to your email of 23 April 2010 about the handling of your Freedom of Information Act request of 22 March 2010. I am the senior independent official who has been asked to review the initial response to your request.

Your original request was for information detailing any correspondence or meetings between Christopher Mole MP and representatives of National Express between 1 June 2009 and 22 March 2010.

My colleague Andrew Ihonor's reply of 15 April 2010 confirmed that the Department for Transport did not hold records of any relevant meetings or correspondence between the dates specified.

Your email of 23 April 2010 asked for this decision to be reviewed, on the basis that you believe the department does hold such records. In this e-mail, you specifically mentioned the three national rail franchises operated by National Express.

I have accordingly carried out this review, during which I asked the Minister's office to search diary and correspondence records for the names of three rail franchise companies to which you alluded: c2c, National Express East Anglia (including Stansted Express) and National Express East Coast. No records could be found of any meetings or correspondence between Christopher Mole MP and these companies during the specified period.

I also asked for similar searches to be run on the names of several senior executives within the National Express Group. However, these once again produced no records.

Having reviewed the case, I can confirm that the Department for Transport does not hold records of meetings or correspondence between Christopher Mole MP and representatives of National Express during the specified period.

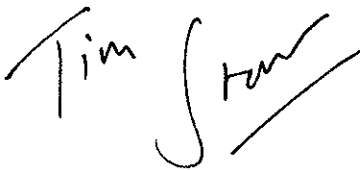
You have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner if you believe that the Department for Transport has failed to properly respond to your request for information under the Act. You can do so by writing to the Information Commissioner, addressing your letter:

Section 50 Complaint under FOI Act

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Stamp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Tim Stamp**  
Divisional Manager, Statistics Travel