



# HM TREASURY

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Ref: IRU 8/550

21 October 2008

Dear Mr Tosdevin

## Freedom of Information Act 2000: Global Financial Crisis

Thank you for your enquiry dated 23 September requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. Referring to televised comments of the Prime Minister on 21 September, you asked for –

*copies of all documents created during the period May 1997 to May 2007, particularly letters to the Chancellor's opposite numbers in other countries (notably the US) addressing the need for global measures to tackle inherent weaknesses in national financial systems, including our own.*

3. I confirm that the Treasury holds relevant information for this broad, layered, request. One of the key sources which the Prime Minister may have had in mind would have been representations to the IMF. These are already published on our website at the following link and cover the period 2001 to date. These have consistently emphasised themes of strengthening the international financial system, crisis prevention and global corporate accountability.

<http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/5479.htm>

4. Also available on the Treasury website are a number speeches that the Prime Minister made when he was Chancellor between 1997 and 2007 which cover the themes of international institutional and regulatory reform. These can be found at:

<http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/speeches.htm>

5. I hope that this information satisfies the spirit of your request. To satisfy your request to the letter would entail an appraisal of a significant proportion of all the information the Treasury holds. This would exceed the cost limit under the Act, which for central government this is set at £600 and represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Treasury holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under



section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act departments are not obliged to comply with requests in these circumstances.

6. You may wish to submit a narrowed request, although it is not easy for us to anticipate in what way you would want to narrow. Clearly any such request, even for a narrower timeframe, would still be subject to assessment against the costs exemption.

7. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. It will be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

**Paul Morran  
Information Rights Unit  
HM Treasury**

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an review of our decision, you should write within two months of the date of this letter to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ. email - [public.enquiries@hm-treasury.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@hm-treasury.gov.uk)

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