



HM TREASURY

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

27 April 2010

M James

Information Rights Unit

Tel: 0207 270 4558

Fax: 0207 270 4861

By email: request-33076-f8e00584@whatdotheyknow.com

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk
FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Ref: 10/333

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: Bank of England

Thank you for your enquiry dated 19 April requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for information on whether –

- *the Bank of England is publicly owned*
- *all the profits go towards public expenditure*
- *the Bank carries out any private business*

This information is available on the Bank of England's Annual Report and Accounts website. The following references are to the publication for 2009 at –

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/annualreport/index.htm>

The Bank is publicly owned: note 2r to the Banks Financial Statements (page 62) explains that the equity is held by the treasury solicitor on behalf of the Treasury.

The same note explains that year by year half of the Bank's post-tax profits are paid over to the Treasury in lieu of dividend. The expenditure review section gives more detail of how the Bank funds its operations, mainly from margin on the Cash Ratio Deposits that banking institutions are required to maintain there.

The Report by the Non-executive Directors highlights the issue of Customer Banking, which I assume is what you mean in your third question.

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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, 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 the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

