



# Home Office

## Information Access Team

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Mr Peter Collingbourne

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Date: 4 February 2010

Dear Mr Collingbourne

### **Freedom of Information requests (our refs. 10676 and 11863): internal review**

I am writing further to my e-mail of 10 November 2009 about your requests for internal reviews of our responses to your Freedom of Information (Fol) requests about contracts relating to the National Identity Scheme.

I have now completed the review. I have examined the relevant papers and have consulted the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) who provided the original response. I have considered whether the correct procedures were followed and assessed the reasons why information was withheld from you. I confirm that I was not involved in the initial handling of your request.

My findings are set out in the attached report. My main conclusions are that the original responses should not have relied on sections 12(1) and 22(1) of the Fol Act in withholding information from you. The response to your first request was also unacceptably late and in breach of section 10(1) of the Act, for which I apologise on behalf of the Department. We have agreed with IPS that they will send to you a revised response to your requests.

As explained in the report, IPS intend to publish summaries of the two contracts with Thales and CSA by the end of February 2010. They will be available on the IPS website. I understand that the summaries which will be published will, in terms of the information which they provide if not the exact format, be that which would be provided in response to an Fol request such as those which you have made. Where information is withheld, IPS will explain the reason and refer to the relevant sections of the Act.

IPS will accordingly send to you later this month a revised response based on the summaries which will be published, together with the references to the sections of the Fol Act under which information is withheld. **Since the information is too large to send electronically, they will require a postal address to which to send the**



**information. I would be grateful if you could provide such an address.**

This completes the internal review process by the Home Office in respect of the original IPS responses to your requests. If you remain dissatisfied after you have received the revised IPS response to which I have referred, you may ask for a further internal review. Alternatively, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Brook', written in a cursive style.

**Adrian Brook**  
**Information Access Team**