



# HM TREASURY

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Information Rights Unit

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Ref: 8/715

15 December 2008

Dear Dr. Levy

## Freedom of Information Act 2000: Vatican Bank

Thank you for your enquiry dated 4 December requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. You asked for –

*all information regarding the following banking institution and its operations in the UK, Europe and worldwide including but not limited to banking, money laundering, and correspondent accounts:*

*The Vatican Bank also known as The Institute for Works of Religion (Italian language: Istituto per le Opere di Religione – IOR)*

3. I can confirm that we have searched our electronic records for matches to the terms listed in your request and found nothing. We can find thousands of documents with a match to the term 'vatican' in isolation, but these seem to be relating to other topics e.g. EC matters, millennium goals, and not about the Vatican Bank or its operations. We have also searched the index of paper files and these searches yield no match at all for 'vatican'. We therefore conclude that HM Treasury does not hold any information relevant to your request, a position confirmed by the corporate knowledge of policy colleagues in that area of work.

4. It may be helpful to point out that HM Treasury has no routine supervisory functions that would entail us holding detailed information on specific banking operations of the Vatican or any other bank.

5. General banking supervision is the province of the Financial Services Authority. There is a Freedom of Information link at the foot of their home page at [www.fsa.gov.uk/](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/).

6. Money laundering supervision is the province of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. If you wish to pursue an enquiry with them you can do so direct from their web site at [www.hmrc.gov.uk/](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/). 'Freedom of Information' appears under 'quick links' on their home page and leads to an online form for requests.



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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Morran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

**Paul Morran**  
**Information Rights Unit**

**Your Rights to Complain under the FOI Act**

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)

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.