



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

020 7930 4433

[www.number10.gov.uk](http://www.number10.gov.uk)

15 January 2009

Dear Mr Hardwick Carruthers

Thank you for your request of 14 December about the e-petitions submitted to the Prime Minister asking:

- *"On how many occasions has the response made by the Prime Minister to a petition involved consultation with another organization (i.e. government department, independent statutory bodies, etc) that are often the subject of a petition.*
- *Please identify by organization the number of responses made by the Prime Minister to each petition, and if there was consultation resulting in the formation of a record (excluding the Prime Minister's actual response to a petition), the petitions to which these records relate".*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for central Government is set at £600, which represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting any information.

We do not hold the information that you have requested in a discreet list. To comply with your request would require going through over 2000 individual electronic files in addition to cross-referencing against

information held in hard copy format. For this reason we estimate that even determining whether we hold information relevant to your request would exceed the appropriate limit.

On a general point, outside the Freedom of Information Act, you may be interested to know that when responding to e-petitions the Prime Minister's Office discusses each e-petition with the relevant Government Department to ensure that the latest information is provided when responding.

Yours sincerely

*N Howard*

**NICHOLAS HOWARD**

Mr Stuart Hardwick Carruthers



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If you are unhappy with the level of service you have received from this office in relation to any aspect of your request, you may ask for an internal review.

You should contact:

Sue Gray  
Director  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

Email: [foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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