



Michael Warren
Government Communications

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22 April 2009

Our Reference: FOI262642

Dear Mr Freeman,

Further to our letters of 25 March and 8 April concerning your email of 27 February requesting the following information:

“relating to the setting up of the website realhelpnow.gov.uk, including but not limited to emails discussing the reasons for setting the site up and what content to include; minutes of meetings discussing the same issues; stakeholders' comments regarding the setting up of the site and/or its content; the budget relating to the setting up and maintenance of the site, and how this was agreed upon; and the content and conclusions of any discussions concerning whether the site is a cost-effective use of civil servants' time and/or taxpayers' money, and whether or not it breaches rules concerning political neutrality”

I can confirm that the Cabinet Office holds some information falling within the description specified in your request, as follows:

1. Emails discussing the reasons for setting the site up and what content to include; minutes of meetings discussing the same issues

The Cabinet Office does hold information within the scope of this part of your request. This information is however exempt under Section 35 (Formulation of Government Policy) of the Act. Consideration has been given to whether it would be in the public interest to release the information we hold relating to this part of your request. We have decided that the public interest in maintaining the exclusion outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. Stakeholders' comments regarding the setting up of the site and/or its content

No such information is held by the Cabinet Office.

3. The budget relating to the setting up and maintenance of the site, and how this was agreed upon

The Cabinet Office holds some information within the scope of this part of your request. However under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act we are not required to provide information in response to a request if that information is freely available to the applicant. The information was requested in a Parliamentary Question to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster from Grant

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Shapps MP on 26 February 2009 and is available at www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pahansard.htm under question number [259523](#).

The Cabinet Office also holds information within the scope of this part of your request which is exempt under Section 35 (Formulation of Government Policy) of the Act. Consideration has been given to whether it would be in the public interest to release the information we hold relating to this part of your request. We have decided that the public interest in maintaining the exclusion outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

4. The content and conclusions of any discussions concerning whether the site is a cost-effective use of civil servants' time and/or taxpayers' money, and whether or not it breaches rules concerning political neutrality

No such information is held by the Cabinet Office.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Sue Gray
Director
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS
email: 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 your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours Sincerely

Michael Warren
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