



# HM TREASURY

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Information Rights Unit

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Email: request-8737-  
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Ref: 9/205  
Email/17324/2009

18 March 2009

Dear Mr Walker

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST: LIVE BIRTH TRUSTS**

I am writing regarding your email dated 03 March and received on 04 March 2009, in which you asked:

*"Is it true that HM Treasury keeps - what could be called - a Live Birth Trust Account for each member of the population, for which the associated Human Being is Agent and Prime Creditor? I would be most grateful if you would be so kind as to confirm or deny this."*

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides individuals with a right to request recorded information from a public authority. Broad questions and requests for explanation as in your enquiry are not valid requests under the Act. You might find the information Commissioner's guidance to requestors helpful for future reference and I attach a link for your convenience.

[http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom\\_of\\_information/practical\\_application/its\\_public\\_information\\_foi\\_charter\\_final.pdf](http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/practical_application/its_public_information_foi_charter_final.pdf)

I can however, confirm that HM Treasury does not hold any recorded information relevant to a "Live Birth Trust Account". A search of our electronic records does not identify "Live Birth Trust" as a term in general usage and can only guess at what you might mean by it. If your enquiry is with reference to National Insurance, I can say that the system of National Insurance Numbers is primarily used simply to record National Insurance contributions against individuals, which determine their entitlement to certain state benefits – as explained at the Directgov web page below.  
[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/Taxes/BeginnersGuideToTax/DG\\_4015904](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/Taxes/BeginnersGuideToTax/DG_4015904)

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.

**Melanie Scoulding**  
**Information Rights Unit**  
On behalf of HM Treasury



**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 [public.enquiries@hm-treasury.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@hm-treasury.gov.uk) <<mailto:public.enquiries@hm-treasury.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