



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

020 7930 4433

www.number10.gov.uk

8 August 2011

Dear Mr Thackeray

Thank you for your email of 12 July in which you ask for all emails sent and received by Andy Coulson.

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

The Cabinet Office's publicly-stated record management policy, which was introduced in 2004, is that the IT system automatically deletes e-mails after three months. This policy was introduced on the basis that the e-mail system should not be used for storing public records - for which established systems are in place - or ephemeral information. Mr Coulson resigned in January 2011. No e-mails therefore will remain in the live e-mail account nor will they be held in either a trash can or recycle bin folder.

Although the information may exist on the computer server we estimate that the cost of establishing this would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 set out in the Freedom of Information Act. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether we hold the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Yours sincerely

NICHOLAS HOWARD

Mr William Thackeray



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LONDON SW1A 2AA

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:

Roger Smethurst
Head of Knowledge and Information Management Unit
Admiralty Arch
North Entrance
The Mall
LONDON SW1A 2WH

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 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