



Cabinet Office

Room 405
70 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2AS

foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Dr Emma L Briant

By email: request-682939-d21e1558@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2020/10737

08/09/2020

Dear Dr Emma L Briant

I refer to your request where you asked:

“See a list of all correspondence (and related documents) and information such as scheduled events, meetings and calls related to the company Strategic Communication Laboratories and their work that might be held by the Cabinet Office/the Defence Ministers Office from 2010-2011 inclusive please.

In addition I would like to see a list of any correspondence or scheduling for meetings or records of calls between Commander Steve Tatham and the office of Liam Fox please during the same time frame.”

I must inform you that the Cabinet Office is unable to comply with your request. Section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act relieves public authorities of the duty to comply with a request for information if the cost of dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations, and for central Government, this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The reason that your request exceeds the cost limit is that the time frame you requested information for is very long and any information that may be relevant to your request could be contained within a number of file series retained in the Cabinet Office. Conducting a search to determine whether the Cabinet Office holds any information relevant to your request will exceed the appropriate limit laid down in the regulations. If you wish, you may refine your request to bring the cost of determining whether the Cabinet Office holds relevant information, locating, retrieving and extracting it, below the appropriate limit. One way to refine your request would be to narrow the time period for your request, for example, a two month period. Even a shorter period would require us to search many files and may not be sufficient, on its own, to make it possible for us to comply with your request within the appropriate limit. Another option would be to restrict the request to physical or digital records or one file series, for example, the Prime Minister Office Records or Cabinet Office records. This would still require us to search many files and still may not be sufficient to make it possible for us to comply with your request within the appropriate limit.

It is unlikely that the Cabinet Office holds information relevant to your request. During the period your request covers, Liam Fox was Secretary of State for Defence and it would be likely that information you are seeking is held by The Ministry of Defence. I must inform you that if the Cabinet Office does hold any information, it may be subject to one or more of the exemptions contained within the Freedom of Information Act.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

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:

Eirian Walsh Atkins
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. Smith', written over a light blue horizontal line.

*FOI Team
Cabinet Office*