

Ms D Drysdale  
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Our Ref:

30 October 2008

## **FOI Request – Derbyshire Presentation**

Dear Ms Drysdale,

Thank you for the Freedom of Information requests that you submitted on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008, which were about the Department's intention to host a presentation in recognition of the contributions of the MV Derbyshire Family Association (DFA) to inquiries into *Derbyshire's* loss and subsequent work on bulk carrier safety. In this response I will address the requests you made in both emails.

Invitations have been extended only to individuals – or individuals representing organisations – that were closely involved in the reopened formal investigation (RFI) into *Derbyshire's* loss, and have been expressly approved by the DFA. Given the nature of the presentation, the Department wishes to restrict attendance to those individuals, and will not extend an invitation to you.

I will now answer your points in the order that you presented them in the e-mail dated 6<sup>th</sup> October:

1. Although the Department holds a list of participants, the information is subject to the exemption at section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. The information is personal information within the meaning of the Data Protection Act and its disclosure would amount to a breach of the data protection principles.
2. Rt Hon John Prescott MP, although invited, will not be attending. There will be no associated costs.
3. The Department does not hold a collated analysis of the costs associated with the preparation and execution of this event. It has, however, budgeted £10,000 to cover the travel and subsistence costs of DFA representatives. Other invitees will cover the cost of their own attendance.
4. The presentation is scheduled to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008.
5. The Department does not hold information about when the original commitment to host this presentation was made, and nor about who made that commitment.

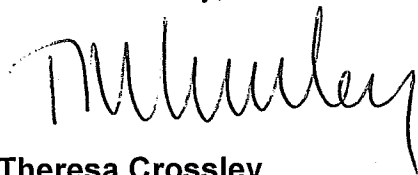
6. No formal agenda for the event has been agreed.

The meaning of the term "revelations" is not clear from your e-mail, but I can confirm that the Department does not intend to disclose any new information or evidence related to the loss of *Derbyshire*.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to me at the above address. Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theresa Crossley', written in a cursive style.

**Theresa Crossley**

## **Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner**

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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

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