



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Mr A Ahmad  
By email: [request-651852-6f96c082@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-651852-6f96c082@whatdotheyknow.com)

Charity Commission  
PO Box 211  
Bootle  
L20 7YX

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref: C-516085**

**Date: 24 March 2020**

Dear Mr Ahmad,

## **RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Thank you for your recent information requests which we have dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

The Commission has received 15 requests for information from you in the period 3 March – 7 March 2020 (set out in eight emails) – please see attached sheet for details of each request relating primarily to the The Central Gurdwara (British Isles) London Khalsa Jatha (258324).

We are unable to provide you with information relevant to your requests as it is considered that the exemption at section 12(1) of the Act applies. Section 12(1) states:

*“Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”*

The cost of compliance for central government departments, including the Commission, is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 24 hours (or 3.5 working days) in identifying whether the Commission holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

We estimate that it will take in excess of 24 hours to comply with your request and therefore, your request will not be processed further.

Under section 12(4)(b) of the Act, if two or more requests made to a public authority are made by one person (or by different persons who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign), then the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

Under section 5(2) of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, requests can be aggregated where:

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Visit [www.gov.uk/charity-commission](http://www.gov.uk/charity-commission) for help on filing your annual return and accounts

**t:** 0300 066 9197 (General enquiries)

**w:** [www.gov.uk/charity-commission](http://www.gov.uk/charity-commission)

- They are made for the same or similar information; and
- They are received within any period of 60 consecutive days.

Your requests have been aggregated on the basis that there is an overarching theme or common thread running between the requests in terms of the nature of the information that has been requested. They have also been received within a period of 60 consecutive days. Therefore, we consider that to deal with your aggregated requests would exceed the appropriate costs limit.

In calculating the cost of compliance, we have estimated that it will take at least 93 hours to:

- determine whether the information is held;
- locate the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieve the information, or a document containing it; and
- extract the information from a document containing it.

for each of the 1,117 items held by the Commission in scope of your request, spending an average of five minutes on each document.

Section 16(1) of the Act requires public authorities to provide advice and assistance to requesters. You may therefore wish to consider narrowing the scope of your request – for example, by limiting the number of requests you make within a period of 60 consecutive working days and narrowing your requests to the information that is most important to you. Please note that any revised request we receive will be treated as a new request and it may be the case that relevant exemptions under the Act will be applied.

I would also point out that as you are aware, the Commission is currently conducting a statutory inquiry into the charity and will publish its report on the inquiry once it has been concluded.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request or the decision which has been reached, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests must be submitted within two months of the date of this response and should be addressed to the Charity Commission at PO Box 211, Bootle, L20 7YX (email: [RIGA@charitycommission.gov.uk](mailto:RIGA@charitycommission.gov.uk)).

If you are not satisfied with the internal review, you are able to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our review procedure. The ICO can be contacted at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)).

Yours sincerely

Lucy Breakspere  
Information Rights and Complaints Manager