



BANK OF ENGLAND

Francis Harris
via email to:
request-750033-
d4434a2e@whatdotheyknow.com

Information Access Team
Communications Directorate
T 020 3461 4878
F 020 3461 5460
enquiries@bankofengland.co.uk

24 May 2021

Please quote ref. CAS-31886-L9G8X2 on all correspondence

Dear Francis Harris

Thank you for your email of 23 April in which you ask for access to the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Fol Act'):

'... the dates and length of all meetings between Stonewall and Bank of England officials between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021, and please give the job titles of the officials involved'

Unfortunately, your request as currently formulated would, in our view, exceed the cost threshold under the Fol Act. Let me put that into context. To identify information potentially within the scope of your request we ran some preliminary searches in the Bank of England's (the 'Bank's') electronic document management system using general search terms relating to the subjects of your interest. This returned a large number of records and in order to ascertain whether any of those records contain any information within the scope of your request would mean retrieving and assessing each individual record which would be a time consuming exercise.

Under section 12(1) of the Fol Act, the Bank is not required to comply with an Fol request if it estimates, as we do in this case, that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 'cost limit' of £450. The figure of £450 equates to 18 hours on the basis that hourly costs under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 are taken to be £25 per person per hour. For this purpose the Regulations allow the Bank to take into account the costs it reasonably expects to incur in '(a) determining whether it holds the information (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information and (d) extracting the information from a document containing it.'

Please let me know if you would like us to consider a more focussed request, for example:

- focusing on a specific area of the Bank. You may find the Bank's organogram useful in this regard as it lists the Bank's areas at Directorate level which can be found on our website at: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/about/people/orgchart>; or
- a shorter time period.

Whilst you may wish to submit a narrower request with a more precise focus, please do bear in mind, even if your request can be complied with within the appropriate cost limit, that it is possible that one or more of the exemptions under the Fol Act may apply.

Yours sincerely

Heena Rabadia

Heena Rabadia
Information Access Team

Your right to complain under the Fol Act

If you are unhappy with the Bank's response, you may ask for that decision to be reviewed internally. Please note that this will be subject to the Bank having received your submission within two months of the date of this response. In order to submit an internal review, please set out the grounds for your appeal and send it to Wendy Galvin, Information Access Team (TS-Mz), Communications Directorate, Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London, EC2R 8AH or by email to enquiries@bankofengland.co.uk for the attention of Wendy Galvin.

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

Privacy notice

When you contact us, the Bank collects information about you. This includes your name, contact details and anything you choose to disclose in your correspondence.

We collect your personal data to assess your request and prepare our response to you. Our basis to process this data is that it is necessary for us to satisfy a legal obligation.

We will keep your personal data for 10 years. You can request that we no longer use your personal data, by contacting us via the website link below.

You have a number of rights under data protection laws, for example you have the right to ask us for a copy of the personal data the Bank holds about you. This is known as a 'Subject Access Request'. You can ask us to change how we process or deal with your personal data, and you may also have the right in some circumstances to have your personal data amended or deleted. To find out more about those rights, to make a complaint, or to contact our Data Protection Officer, please see our website at

www.bankofengland.co.uk/privacy