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16 August 2011

Dear Mr Sandham and Mr Cieslik-Bridgen

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST; REFERENCE FOI315304**

I refer to your email dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 regarding a Freedom of Information request. In that email you asked:

"Could you tell me what vetting agency was responsible for vetting Andy Coulson before he became director of communications at Downing Street?"

Government departments use either the Defence Vetting Agency (part of the Ministry of Defence) or FCO Services (a trading fund within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) to undertake the field enquiries and the processing of their National Security Vetting work. Cabinet Office (which includes the Prime Minister's Office) employs FCO Services to undertake this work in all cases.

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

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, again referring to the above reference to:

Roger Smethurst  
Head of Knowledge & Information Management Unit  
Cabinet Office  
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 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 faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bolster', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

John Bolster