



13 October 2015

Pat James

Via e-mail: <mailto:request-293887-c3560264@whatdotheyknow.com>

Our ref: FOI 2015/41

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 24 September 2015, in which you requested the following information from the United Kingdom Supreme Court (UKSC):

*Please provide or direct me to evidence in "Common Law" that states that administrative courts, such as "bulk Centres" and "Council Tax Liability Hearings" have any jurisdiction in common law.*

*Please provide or direct me to evidence in "Common Law" that states that administrative courts as described above are deemed as courts of record.*

*Again, I am in no way requesting legal advice or opinion in law.*

I should explain that whilst the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) can be used to access recorded information held by a public body, it cannot be used to obtain guidance, opinions, conjecture or legal advice.

Section 84 of the Act states that in order for a request for information to be handled as a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, it must be for recorded information. For example, a Freedom of Information request would be for a copy of a policy, rather than an explanation as to why we have that policy in place.

I note that you say in your email that you are not seeking legal advice, however, having assessed your question I have determined that it does not constitute a valid FOI request, and I am unable to deal with it under the terms of the Act. This is because you are not asking for recorded information we hold, but are seeking advice on where you can find legal opinion or evidence.

If you are seeking advice, you may like to speak to a solicitor or contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau, details of which can be found at:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

As part of our obligations under the FOIA, the UK Supreme Court has an independent review process. If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may write to request an internal review. The internal review will be carried out by someone who did not make the original decision, and they will re-assess how the Department handled the original request. If you wish to request an internal review, please write or send an email to the following address:

William Arnold  
Director of Corporate Services  
UK Supreme Court  
Parliament Square  
London  
SW1P 3BD  
e-mail: [william.arnold@supremecourt.uk](mailto:william.arnold@supremecourt.uk)

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office under Section 50 of the FOIA. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

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

Internet: [https://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact\\_us.aspx](https://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact_us.aspx)

I am sorry not to be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely



**REBECCA LOWSON**  
Information Officer