



Department for Transport

Hannah Newell
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Department for Transport
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LONDON
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Web Site: www.gov.uk
Our Ref: F0014832

12th June 2017

By email: request-406344-73388639@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Valerie Belcher,

Thank you for your email of 12 May in which you requested the following information:

Copies of all correspondence between Andrea Leadsom MP or her constituency staff and ministers or officials in your department which were sent and received during the 2016 calendar year.

We have estimated that the cost of complying with your request would exceed £600. Section 12 of the Act (the full text of which is attached) does not oblige the Department to comply with requests that exceed this limit, and we are therefore refusing your request.

We are unable to answer your request within the cost limit as we do not hold details of MPs constituency staff, therefore we would be unable to determine if any information is held without exceeding the £600 cost limit.

If you send us a new, more specific request, (such as specific names of correspondents or letters between Andrea Leadsom MP and a specific Minister), we will consider if that can be dealt with within the limit.

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 40 working days of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Newell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Hannah Newell

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within 40 working days 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 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

Section 12 exemption:

Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) 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.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,

the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.