



Dr Emma L Briant
request-593211-0764cac4@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI : 57024
27 January 2020

Dear Dr Briant,

Thank you for your e-mail of 24 December 2019, in which you ask for:

- All correspondence between RICU and persons associated with the company *Breakthrough Media Network Ltd* (January 2017- December 2019)
- List of dates/costs of any strategic communication or research related contracts on which this company worked
- List of individuals from the company who were working with RICU

Under section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

We have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

Specifically, the data is stored across multiple locations, many of which are not readily accessible. To collate the information you seek would require significant work to manually retrieve and reconcile the documents in scope. Assuming a very conservative estimate of 60 seconds to locate and retrieve each document, we estimate this would be significantly over the FOI cost limit.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Reducing the scope of the requests, for example limiting to a shorter period such as the previous month would bring this request below the cost limit. However, other exemptions under the FOI may still apply.

Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

Even if a revised request were to fall within the cost limit, it is possible that other exemptions in the Act might apply.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference 57024. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information
Home Office