



Home Office

Information Rights Team  
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Lotte Smith  
request-363914-  
ab4cfd1c@whatdotheyknow.com  
13th December 2016

Dear Lotte Smith

Thank you for your e-mail of 7th December 2016, in which you asked the following:

*'I am writing to request an internal review of Home Office's handling of my FOI request 'Cash payments and reintegration of removals and deportations to Nigeria*

*Please provide me with a reply soonest"*

Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I note that on 4 November 2016 the Home Office extended the deadline until 1 December 2016, because we needed further time to consider the Public Interest Test in relation to a qualified exemption.

Some of the provisions in the FOI Act are qualified and subject to a public interest test (PIT). This test is used to balance the public interest for and against saying whether the information requested is held or not.

The 'public interest' is not the same as what interests the public. In carrying out a PIT we consider the greater good or benefit to the community as a whole in saying whether information is held or not. Transparency and the 'right to know' must be balanced against the need to enable effective government and to serve the best interests of the public.

I realise that the Home Office has not kept to this extended deadline and I would like to apologise on behalf of the Department for this delay, but I can assure you that we are dealing with your request and we will send you a full reply as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely

*N McKenzie*

N. McKenzie

Information Rights Team

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