



Michael Doherty
Head of Information Compliance Unit

Sir or Madam
What Do They Know?
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Date: 17th April 2009
Ref: C/1902/2009

Request for Information Relating to Common Purpose

Sir or Madam,

Your correspondence of 9 March 2009, our response of 11 March and your message of 9 April have come to my attention. It is my duty to inform you that your original message should not have been accepted as a valid request under the freedom of information act.

I note you style yourself, "*R Soles*", in your communications, thus ensuring that the junior staff dealing with you are forced to cope with the homophonic consequences. I believe this name to be a pseudonym and calculated to be offensive. This being the case your request does not meet all the criteria set by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the act). One of the criteria is that the applicant provides **the** name, not a pseudonym.

I am aware the Information Commissioner suggests that if information would be provided in response to a fully made out request, it would be reasonable to provide it in a case where a pseudonym is used. However the Commissioner also points out pseudonymous requests for information are outside his scope.

Furthermore the advice does not cover requests that are not only pseudonymous but are at the same time calculated to be offensive.

I have not made this decision lightly. I am aware your name could be as provided; but I strongly doubt this to be the case, particularly given the way in which it is presented. It is not appropriate for an employer to expect its staff to deal with offensively styled communications.

Should you wish to claim your identity is as styled in your correspondence I suggest you send me evidence – a scanned copy of a driver's licence and passport would be useful. If you do so, I will destroy the evidence once checked and not disclose any details to anyone else. Then of course your request will be acted upon.

Meanwhile, if you navigate to the following website, you will find that Kent Police is happy to reply to proper requests relating to Common Purpose:

http://www.cpexposed.com/documents/CP_Police_Kent_Expenditure.pdf.

You will, I'm sure, note Kent Police is open about its dealing with the organisation.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Doherty
Head of Information Compliance Unit