

03 October 2013

Royal Mail Group

Mr Christian Cowell

By Email: request-171380-a29344e3@whatdotheyknow.com

Information Rights Team
(Freedom of Information Act)
2nd Floor
Royal Mail Sheffield
Pond Street
SHEFFIELD
S98 6HR

Tel: 0114 241 4215
foi@royalmail.com
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Dear Mr Cowell

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request (Our Reference: KFEN-9BAF3D)

I am writing in response to your recent request for information dated 05 September 2013 which has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following:

'...the data created in forfilling, or an attempt to forfill, my original request from the 3rd August 2013'.

I can confirm that Royal Mail does hold information relating to the processing of your request submitted on 03 August 2013. Please find attached with this letter a copy of the information recorded on our request tracking database. This includes a list of entries made in chronological order relating to the request in question. I have also attached email correspondence relating to the request.

It has been necessary to redact personal data from the attached documents. This is the personal information of third parties such as names and personal contact details. This information is considered to be exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – *personal information*. Individuals would not expect personal information to be disclosed into the public domain and to do so would therefore breach data protection principles. Section 40(2) of the Act is an absolute exemption in this respect and is not therefore subject to the 'public interest test'.

Cont...

In your original request, submitted on 03 August 2013, you requested a copy of any communications between Royal Mail and GCHQ. Section 23(5) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts a public authority from their duty to confirm or deny whether information is held if to do so would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not held) which relates to any of the bodies named in subsection 23(3) – this includes the Government Communication Headquarters. Royal Mail could therefore neither confirm nor deny whether it holds any information relating to GCHQ and it has been necessary to redact some information from the attached emails for this reason. Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act is an absolute exemption and is not therefore subject to the 'public interest test'.

For the avoidance of doubt, the reliance on section 23(5) of the Act should not be seen as an indication that Royal Mail either does or does not hold information relating to the Government Communication Headquarters. We can neither confirm nor deny this for the reasons already stated.

I hope the information provided is useful to you. If for any reason you are not satisfied with this response to this request, you do have the right to request a review. If you wish to do so please set out in writing your grounds of appeal and send to the Head of Information Rights at the above address. An internal panel will then review the request, and you will be advised of the outcome.

If you decide to appeal and are still not satisfied with our response you also have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

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

Yours sincerely

Kate Fearn
Information Rights Officer
Royal Mail Group