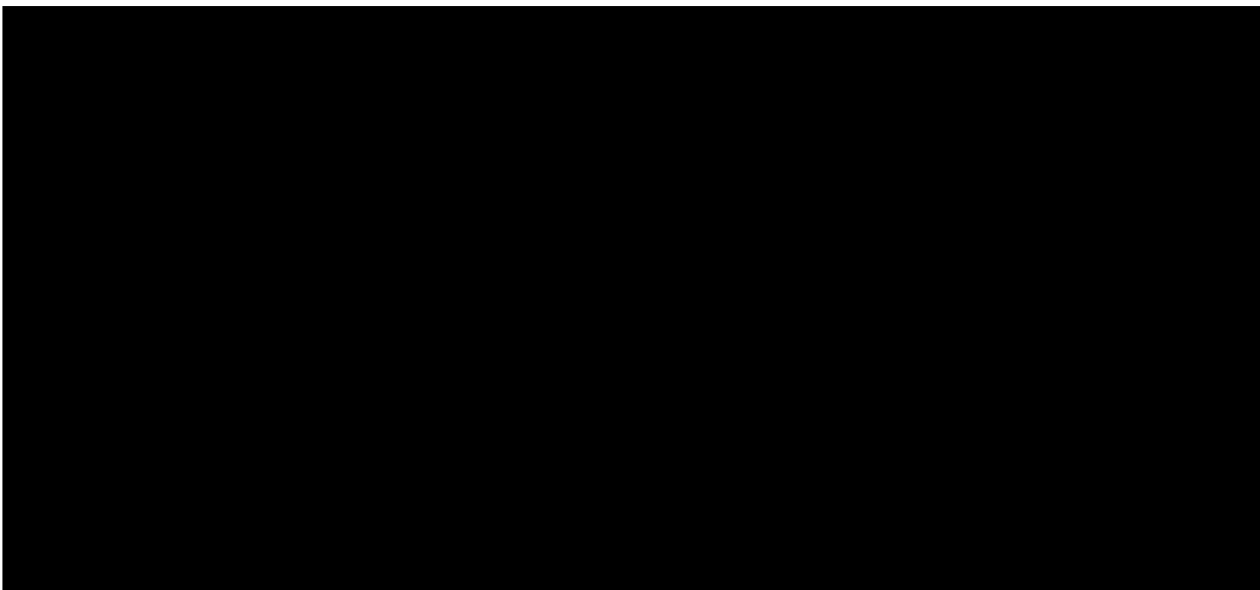


James Dipple-Johnstone
Deputy Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

8 August 2017

Dear James,



We have now issued responses in every case where the request was the subject of a Decision Notice because it was late. We are modifying our clearance procedures to ensure that Decision Notices are complied with in future, although we will aim to avoid wherever possible getting into a position where a Decision Notice is required.

More generally, the Head of the Knowledge and Information Unit here, Simon Marsh is in touch with your colleagues Ged Tracey and Dominic Smith in relation to freedom of information [REDACTED] respectively and has outlined a number of measures which we are taking to improve performance. Freedom of information performance is heading towards the 90% target, although we have recognised that we need to clear the backlog of very old cases and we are concentrating on that.

I hope to arrange a meeting with the Commissioner and yourself soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Rutnam", followed by a horizontal line.

Philip Rutnam
Permanent Secretary