



Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
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United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2018/03099

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E-mail: TOG-FOIandPQ@mod.uk

Mr Pete Falmouth

12th March 2018

[request-459566-6ba10199@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

Dear Mr Falmouth,

Thank you for your email of 28th February 2018 refining your request seeking the following information:

“Correspondence, including emails, between MOD ministers, ministers’ private office staff or ministers’ special advisers, and any of the following individuals: Tony Blair; Mark Malloch-Brown; James McGory; Jolyon/Jo Maugham; Nick Clegg; Gina Miller; Tom Brake; or Peter Mandelson, during the year 2016.

Correspondence, including emails, between MOD ministers, ministers’ private office staff or ministers’ special advisers, and any of the following individuals: Tony Blair; Mark Malloch-Brown; James McGory; Jolyon/Jo Maugham; Nick Clegg; Gina Miller; Tom Brake; or Peter Mandelson, during the year 2017.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12(2) of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The Ministry of Defence may hold this information; however, the refinement request still falls outside of the cost limit specified within the Act. I am therefore applying Section 12(2) of the Act to your request.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. There are various support functions within a private office that supports a Minister, which pertain multiple accounts pushing the boundary outside the cost limit. You would need to consider refining your search criteria to just Ministers and select a few named individuals.

I must also inform you that if you refine your request it may be that the Department does not hold the information or that it may be subject to one or more of the exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours Sincerely

Top Office Group Business Manager