



**Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills**

Pat Aspinall
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Ref No: **13/0658**

25 June 2013

Dear Pat Aspinall

Thank you for your email of 24 May where you requested sight of all correspondence from 12 May 2010 to 24 May 2013 between BIS and the National Federation of Subpostmasters information and between BIS and George Thomson, General Secretary of the National Federation of Subpostmasters.

We do hold information falling within the terms of your request; however we need more time to consider your request.

I wish to advise you that the following exemption is considered to apply to the information that you have requested:

Section 43(2), in that disclosure would be likely to prejudice commercial interests

By virtue of section 10 (3), where public authorities have to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to a request, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not yet reached a decision on the balance of the public interest. Due to the need to consider, in all the circumstances of the case, where the balance of the public interest lies in relation to the information that you have requested, the Department will not be able to respond to your request in full within the original 20 working days.

However, we hope to let you have a response by 23 July and sooner if possible.

Yours sincerely,

Royal Mail and Post Office Network Team

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.