



Department for Business Innovation & Skills

By email: Pat Aspinall
request-162693-d60f865f@whatdotheyknow.com

BIS Ref: FOI 13/0658

20 August 2013

Dear Pat Aspinall

This response is further to your email of 24 May where you requested sight of all correspondence from 12 May 2010 to 24 May 2013 between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the National Federation of Subpostmasters (NFSP), and between BIS and George Thomson, General Secretary of the NFSP, and our reply of 25 June 2013.

We have now completed the search of our records for the information we hold relating to your requests. A copy of the information which can be disclosed is attached. The information redacted is exempt under **section 40(2)**, in that it relates to personal data. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test. Section 40 of the FOI Act provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act. We do not think that it is fair to release the names of junior members of staff or third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

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.

Yours sincerely,

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Shareholder Executive
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