



GOVERNMENT HOSPITALITY

LANCASTER HOUSE, ST JAMES'S, LONDON SW1A 1BB

TELEPHONE : 020-7008 8517

FACSIMILE : 020-7008 8526

Our ref: FOI 0030-10

12th February 2010

request-26685-7e16d7c1@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Cross

Freedom of Information Act Request Reference 0030-10

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act, which I received on the 12th January 2010. In your letter you requested:

- a) *the names and cost per bottle of the five most expensive types of wine currently in stock in the Government Hospitality cellar at Lancaster House;*
- b) *the names and cost per bottle of the five most expensive types of wine purchased during 2009 for the cellar; and*
- c) *the total cost of the 20 most expensive bottles of wine purchased during 2009 for the cellar.*

The FOI Act (2000) obliges us to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption is engaged and the public interest test is being considered, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days, and a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case. We do, of course, aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including in cases where we need to consider where the public interest lies in respect of a request. In this case, however, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest test lies.

In your case we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 12 March. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The specific exemption which is engaged in relation to your request is Section 43 (commercial interests).

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the level of service you have received in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review. You should contact Alison MacMillan, Deputy Director of Protocol, Room 1/56, Old Admiralty Building, FCO, London, SW1A 2PA if you wish to make a complaint. You have 40 working days to do so. 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,

Robert Alexander

Robert M O'D Alexander OBE
Head of Government Hospitality