



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Ganesh Sittampalam

Via email: Request- 32382-bac9f2a6@whatdotheyknow.com

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22 June 2010

Ganesh Sittampalam

Internal reviews: F10-228 and F10-240

Thank you for your requests for reviews of the way in which your FOI requests F10-228 and 240 have been dealt with.

You argue that the House has failed to comply with the period mentioned in section 10 of the Freedom of Information Act.

It is a constitutional principle of considerable antiquity that Parliament (and therefore both Houses of Parliament) ceases to exist upon dissolution (see, now, the Septennial Act 1715). Therefore the House of Commons does not exist as the public authority referred to in Schedule 1 to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 when Parliament is dissolved. Nor is any provision made under that Act requiring or permitting acts to be done, or functions to be discharged, during dissolution, as there was, for example, under section 9 of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876 in respect of appeals in the course of being heard by the House of Lords at the time of dissolution. For this reason, the period mentioned in section 10 of the Freedom of Information Act does not continue to run when the House does not exist. There has therefore been no failure to respond within the statutory time limit under s.10 of that Act.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response, you may appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliff House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Andrew Walker

A J Walker

Director General of Resources

HOUSE OF COMMONS

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RESOURCES ANDREW WALKER CPFA

JANET RISSEN (BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT) CHRIS RIDLEY MBA FCCA (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE