

18 March 2020

Ms Jenny Shoesmith  
By email only.

**RE: IRQ0911259**

Dear Ms Shoesmith,

We write in response to your recent request for information, which we received on 18 February 2020. We are now in a position to provide a response.

We have dealt with your request in accordance with your 'right to know' under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

**Request**

In your email you asked us:

*I note that the Information Commissioner has recently visited San Francisco as part of a trip to North America. An account of the visit can be found [here](#).*

*I would like to request the following information about the ICO's visit:*

- 1) The full itinerary of the trip, including its duration, all locations visited, and the purpose for which each place was visited.*
- 2) The number of ICO officers on the trip.*
- 3) The names and job titles of those on the trip.*
- 4) The total cost of the trip, broken down into hotels, flights and other expenses - I appreciate that some expenses may not be recorded yet, but I would like to receive what information is currently held.*
- 5) The class of flight taken by each person, and the rating of hotels stayed at, if held.*

**Response**

We can confirm that we hold some information in scope of your request. We have addressed each element of your request below.

In respect of the first element of your request, we do not hold a recorded 'full itinerary' of the trip. However we have the following records of locations visited and meetings/events attended:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
06/02/2020	Vancouver	<p>A Conversation with Elizabeth Denham: Privacy Gone Mainstream</p> <p>Business in Vancouver event - SFU Segal Building, Vancouver BC</p>
06/02/2020	Victoria, BC	<p>21st Annual Privacy and Security Conference</p> <p>Privacy &amp; Security: Bringing Digital Into Focus, Victoria Conference Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote Speech by the Commissioner</li> <li>• Panel Session involving the Commissioner - Regulating Content on the Internet.</li> </ul>
10/02/2020	Menlo Park, California	Facebook—meeting with senior staff
10/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Twitter—meeting with senior staff
10/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Commonwealth Club of San Francisco—speech and Q&A to an audience of around 160
10/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Meeting with the British Consul General and discussion dinner hosted by the Consul General
11/02/2020	Berkeley, California	Berkeley Centre for Law and Technology—speech to students and faculty members. Further speaking event undertaken at Berkeley presenting on the ICO's experience of regulating for breach events at Berkeley Cybersecurity Law course. Roundtable lunch with Berkeley law faculty discussing issues of common concern.
11/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Speaking event with Q&A for privacy professionals in the Bay Area facilitated by the International Association of Privacy Professionals.
11/02/2020	Santa Clara, California	Meeting at the Markkula Centre for Applied Ethics
11/02/2020	Mountain View, California	Meeting with Huma to discuss privacy engineering
11/02/2020	Redwood City, California	Startup Grind conference presentation—Data regulation: preparing your start-up for the inevitable
11/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Meeting with the Financial Times

11/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Meeting with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco FinTech team
12/02/2020	Cupertino, California	Apple—meeting with senior staff
12/02/2020	Mountain View, California	Google—meeting with senior staff
12/02/2020	Palo Alto, California	Silicon Valley Bank—Roundtable facilitated event with representatives of the start-up community.
13/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Uber—meeting with senior staff
13/02/2020	San Francisco, California	AdTech roundtable organised by the Network Advertising Initiative (NAI)—discussion forum on the ICO's current regulatory position on AdTech with RTB stakeholders.
13/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Meeting with Nicole Wong, privacy law expert
13/02/2020	New York City	Explain Ability Workshop
13/02/2020	Sacramento, California	Office of California State Assemblyman Ed Chau—meeting with Assemblyman Chau and his advisory team, including the lead state legislature official on the privacy committee.
13/02/2020	Sacramento, California	Office of State Senate Majority Leader Robert Hertzberg—meeting with Senator Hertzberg's chief of staff
13/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Attorney General of California—meeting with staff responsible for drafting guidelines on the CCPA
14/02/2020	New York City	TechNYC meeting—discussions on how to support startups, trend/market intelligence and analysis
14/02/2020	New York City	Meeting to discuss facial recognition technology, adtech, AI auditing and AI developments in the US
14/02/2020	New York City	EDC meeting—discussions on how to support startups and trend/market intelligence and analysis
14/02/2020	New York City	Meetings regarding the development and use of AI with representatives of the Mayors office
14/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Presentation on ICO to British Consul staff
14/02/2020	San Francisco, California	World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution—meeting with AI lead and government affairs lead
14/02/2020	San Francisco, California	Meeting with Alastair Mactaggart, privacy advocate.

In response to the second element of your request we can advise you that the trip involved the Information Commissioner and five of her staff.

In response to the third element of your request please see below information regarding attendees on the trip:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>
Elizabeth Denham CBE	Information Commissioner
Simon McDougall	Executive Director—Technology and Innovation Service
Ali Shah	Head of Technology
Peter Hayes	International Strategy Adviser
John Kavanagh	Private Secretary to the Information Commissioner
Alexandra Delaney-Bhattacharya	Private Secretary to Executive Director—TIS

In response to the fourth element of your request, the total cost of the trip is not yet held. However, please see below costs recorded at the time of your request. Please note that three different currencies are recorded as they have not yet been acquitted through our finance systems. Likewise 'other expenses' is those costs incurred during the trip on corporate credit cards which has not yet been classified and acquitted.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total cost</b>	<b>Currency</b>
Flights	20,475.41	GBP
Hotels	9,324.02	USD
Hotels	3,731.17	GBP
Hotels	192.70	EUR
Other expenses	4,178.18	GPB

In response to your fifth request, the class of flights taken by each attendee is as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Flight class</b>
Elizabeth Denham CBE	Business and economy
Simon McDougall	Business and economy
Ali Shah	Premium economy
Peter Hayes	Business
John Kavanagh	Business and economy
Alexandra Delaney-Bhattacharya	Business and economy

The hotels used during the trip have the following ratings:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Rating body</b>
Dublin Airport	Four Star	Failte Ireland
San Francisco	Three Diamond	American Automobile Association
New York	Three Diamond	American Automobile Association

This concludes our response to your request. We hope the information provided is helpful.

## **Review Procedure**

If you are dissatisfied with this response and wish to request a review of our decision or make a complaint about how your request has been handled you can write to the Information Access Team at the address below or e-mail [accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk](mailto:accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk).

Your request for internal review should be submitted to us within 40 working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the discretion of the Commissioner.

If having exhausted the review process you are not content that your request or review has been dealt with correctly, you have a further right of appeal to this office in our capacity as the statutory complaint handler under the legislation. To make such an application, please write to our Customer Contact Team at the address given or visit our website if you wish to make a complaint under the Freedom of Information Act.

A copy of our [review procedure](#) can be accessed from our website.

Yours sincerely



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