



Cabinet Office

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foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Nicholas Alderton

By email: request-863173-ae9be0d4@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2022/08854

20 July 2022

Dear Nicholas Alderton

We refer to your request where you asked:

"I'd like to make the following Freedom of Information request:

Please provide any information between this office and the Metropolitan Police in relation to 'Operation Hillman'. In particular, I'd like to know whether the Prime Minister (or his office) agreed to accept a fine for the Birthday Party if the police did not pursue the other events.

Additionally, I'd like to know if all of the evidence was passed to the police or if it is known if some was destroyed or deleted, either by mistake or on purpose."

Following your clarification that by 'this office' you meant the Prime Minister's Office, we have interpreted your request for information as seeking information about correspondence between No10 and the Metropolitan Police Service regarding:

1. whether *"the Prime Minister (or his office) agreed to accept a fine for the Birthday Party if the police did not pursue the other event"*;
2. whether *"all of the evidence was passed to the police or if it is known if some was destroyed or deleted, either by mistake or on purpose"*.

We are writing to advise you that the information you have requested is not held.

Regarding the second question, decisions about what information was provided were a matter for the Second Permanent Secretary and the Metropolitan Police. That was not a decision for the Prime Minister or his Office. Under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, and outside the auspices of the Act, you may wish to note that the Second Permanent Secretary set out in her report published on 25 May 2022 that:

'At their request, I provided the Metropolitan Police with the material compiled in the course of my investigation relevant to the dates they were investigating. However, to be clear the police investigation was entirely separate from the process I conducted [...]

The Cabinet Office investigation has accumulated a body of material in the course of its work - interviews, photographs and documents - the vast majority of which naturally is not directly used in the narratives below. I have asked the Cabinet Office Knowledge and Information team to be the custodian of this material, together with my own records relating to this work, for preservation in the official record.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/findings-of-the-second-permanent-secretarys-investigation-into-alleged-gatherings-on-government-premises-during-covid-restrictions>

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Head of Freedom of Information
Cabinet Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House

Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. Smith', written on a light blue background.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office