



Attorney General's Office

Attorney General's Office
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EA

020 7271 2492

www.gov.uk/ago

Kacey Montagu
request-769240-50dbb825@whatdotheyknow.com
by email only

27 July 2021

Dear Ms Montagu,

Clarification request and notice of PIT Extension – FOI request: FOI/112/21

I am writing regarding the Freedom of Information request you submitted to this office dated 28 June 2021, which is copied in bold below;

I am requesting the following:

- 1) Communications between the AGO to Number 10 regarding the appointment of Michael Ellis as Attorney General.**
- 2) Communications between AGO and Michael Ellis upon his appointment as Attorney General - the communications should be on the day of his appointment, and the next day following his appointment.**
- 3) Documents, which are not exempt, given to Michael Ellis upon his appointment, once again on the day of his appointment or the day following.**

First, we require clarification over one aspect of your request. Please can you confirm that we can interpret the scope of part 1 of your request to be identical to the scope of parts 2 and 3, such that it could be read as follows?

- 1) Communications between the AGO to Number 10 regarding the appointment of Michael Ellis as Attorney General, from the day of his appointment and the next day following his appointment.**

Also, while the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) obliges us to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the Act allows time for a response to be provided later than 20 working days after receiving a request. 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 for exempt information. In this case, however, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of public interest lies.

In your case we estimate that it may take up to an additional 20 days to take a decision on where the balance of public interest lies. Therefore, we plan to provide you with our response within 20 working days from the date on which you provide us with the clarification we have requested above. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

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 request and should be addressed to the above address.

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,

FOI Officer



FOI Officer

E: correspondence@attorneygeneral.gov.uk

T: 020 7271 2492



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