



Attorney General's Office

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

020 7271 2492

www.gov.uk/ago

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

14 September 2021

Dear Ms Montagu,

Freedom of Information request: FOI/112/21

I am writing regarding the Freedom of Information request you submitted to this office dated 28 June 2021, as clarified by your email of 30 July 2021, both of which are copied in bold below;

Email of 30 July 2021:

As for the clarification, I am happy for part 1 of my request to be changed to: '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.'

Email of 28 June 2021:

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.**

On 31 August 2021 we wrote to you to inform you that we estimated we would require up to an additional 10 days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies with regard to your request. I am sorry to have to write to you again to inform you that we estimate we will require a further 20 working days to take this decision and provide you with our substantive response. As such, we aim to provide you with our response on or before 12 October 2021, but in any case as soon as we are able to.

In the meantime, it may assist you to know that the main factors which have contributed to this unfortunate delay have been the breadth of your request (which covers multiple documents that appear to fall within a number of different exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act) and a shortage of staff capacity to deal with this fairly complex FOI request. The AGO is a small department comprising of roughly 50 staff members, only a handful of whom are in a appropriate position to consider your request.

While I appreciate you may be disappointed by this further delay, I hope you will understand that we would like to give your request the proper attention it deserves – taking care to ensure that information is retained where it would not in the public interest to disclose it, and of course ensuring that we do not unnecessarily withhold information from you that is disclosable in line with the public interest.

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



[@attorneygeneral](https://twitter.com/attorneygeneral) | gov.uk/ago

Making law and politics work together at the heart of the UK constitution