



Freedom of Information Team  
Knowledge and Information Management Unit  
Cabinet Office

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John Cross  
request-104652-59d596fd@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference:FOI316661  
6 July 2012

Dear John Cross ,

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

I refer to your request where you asked:

*In your last email you wrote "One way of refining your request would be too focus on one of the four types of honours you have listed in your request."*

*Please could you therefore restrict your search to civic honours.*

I very much regret to inform you that the Cabinet Office is still unable to comply with your request under section 12, as the request is still too broad. As outlined in the previous response section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act relieves public authorities of the duty to comply with a request for information if the cost of dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The reason your refined request exceeds the cost limits is that the term 'civic honours' relates to a substantial amount of information we hold, as it could be interpreted as meaning the PM's list and Gallantry medals, The Queens' Award for Voluntary Service or the Big Society. I can therefore advise that if you were to focus your request on one of the three honours mentioned above we will be able to deal with your request. Confining your request to specific time periods or other sub-classifications might also help.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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:

Roger Smethurst  
Head of Knowledge and Information Management

Cabinet Office  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

email: [foi.team@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi.team@cabinet-office.gsi.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 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'M. P.' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

**FOI Team  
Cabinet Office**