



Information Rights Team
Post Office Limited
1st Floor
Finsbury Dials
20 Finsbury Street
London EC2Y 9AQ
033 3665 3951

Our reference : FOI201503190814

Mr Robert Whittaker
request-225664-a1568425@whatdotheyknow.com

17 April 2015

Dear Mr Whittaker,

Freedom of Information Request - FOI201503190814

I am writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited ("**Post Office**") on 18 March 2015, which I am dealing with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FOIA**").

In your email, you have requested information in three parts:

(A) My original FOI request asked for all the "type" information you hold on each Post Office Branch. You have only provided details of the Crown/Non-Crown distinction, and not other type information that you hold. Since your online Branch finder does not include this information, your claimed exemption does not apply. Please tell me what other "type" information you hold on each branch, and then either supply it or issue a refusal notice.

I can confirm that we do hold further information on the details of the contractual position of the branch "type". However Post Office considers that the information you have requested engages Section 43 (2) of the Act concerning likely prejudice to Commercial Interests.

Commercial Interests

Post Office considers that disclosure of information you requested about individual Post Office branch 'type' information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Post Office and its Agents. This information would breach the contractual position between Post Office and its Agents and release commercially confidential information into the public domain, which could affect the commercial position of our Agents for example as a sole traders.

Public Interest

As information has been exempted under Section 43 (2) of the act, a public interest test applies. This involves weighing the balance of public interest in maintaining the exemption or releasing the information. Post Office understands that there is public interest in promoting the transparency and understanding of matters which are of interest to the public. However disclosure of this commercial information would not serve the interests of the public as it does not relate to the provisions of public services or decisions directly affecting the public.

(B) You have yet to issue a formal response to my request to re-use the information I can access through your Branch Finder Tool under either the OGL or the Non-Commercial OGL. Under the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations you are required to provide me with a response. I appreciate that the information will get out of date, but that doesn't affect my desire to be able to re-use it while it is still reasonably fresh.

As advised in our Internal Review response to you dated 15 January 2015, we considered your request for re-use of the information you requested and advised that the information held in Branch Finder was exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of FOIA and therefore there is no requirement for Post Office to licence re-use of this information under FOIA.

The access provided by Branch Finder makes information publically available about our Branches. If you wish to obtain a full list of Post Office branches with address and location data for use in potential commercial purposes, this is potentially available under a commercial licence arrangement. If you wish to take this forward please contact Nasa@postoffice.co.uk for further information on fees and conditions.

(C) You have not answered my request for an explanation of why it took you so long to produce such a poor initial response to my original request. As per the ICO's guidance at <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1165/time-for-compliance-foia-guidance.pdf> : "It also follows that an authority which provides its response close to, or on, the final day of the 20 working day limit ought to be able to both account for, and justify, the length of time taken to comply with the request." Please provide this explanation and justification, as I have previously requested.

As advised in your Internal Review response dated 15 January 2015, we note your complaint; however we consider that we have complied with our obligation under section 10(1) FOIA to reply promptly and within 20 working days in light of the number of requests we receive and our internal procedures for handling and responding to requests.

I hope the information I have provided on this occasion is useful, however if you are dissatisfied with the handling of this response, you do have a right to request an internal review. You can do this by writing to the address below stating your reasons for your internal review request.

Information Rights Manager
Post Office Limited
Information Rights Team
1st Floor
Finsbury Dials
20 Finsbury Street
London
EC2Y 9AQ
foia@postoffice.co.uk

If, having requested an internal review by Post Office Limited, you are still not satisfied with our response you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Humphreys'.

Martin Humphreys
Information Rights Team
foia@postoffice.co.uk
<http://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/access-information>
[@postofficenews](#)