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Your ref:

Our ref: IR13939123 of EIR11237679



12-MAR-12

Nick James [request-96671-bbc7081b@whatdotheyknow.com]

Dear Mr. James

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REQUEST- INTERNAL REVIEW

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request for an internal review. In your email of 28 January 2012, you requested an internal review because the request had gone overdue. You asked specifically for the reasons for the delay.

In any situation, especially one around the holidays, there is a particular challenge to arranging for all the parties involved to have a shared understanding of what is required and what needs to be provided within the relevant timescales.

The main reasons for the delay were the following. First, we were consulting with the third parties involved with supplying the information and the discussions took longer than anticipated because of the information and material involved. We are conscious of our responsibility under the legislation and the need to work closely and cooperatively with our partners. To illustrate this issue, one of the questions required us to consider disclosing the question of whether the Council would disclose the intellectual property rights of one of the suppliers. We had to consider the concerns of the supplier, as their design was unique to their company and constituted a demonstrable economic interest, and our responsibility under the legislation. We had to consider that information was disclosed they would be disadvantaged within the market as competitors would be able to take advantage of their work. In doing so, we had to consider the legal implications of disclosing such information.

Second, the response contained a large amount of personal information. We had to discuss with a number of third parties regarding the various minutes and meetings that you requested. In some cases, the people involved would not have been in roles that have as high of profile so they would have a higher expectation of privacy. As there were a number of meetings and officers involved across a variety of partners, the discussion took some time to conclude.

We apologise for the delay in responding to your request and we hope to learn from this event so that we can improve.

I hope that the response has answered your question. If you would like to appeal, then your next step is to contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Lawrence Serewicz
Principal Information Management Officer