

09 August 2012

Royal Mail Group

Mr Jack Cope

By email: request-124107-4570183d@whatdotheyknow.com

Information Rights Team
(Freedom of Information Act)
2nd Floor
Royal Mail Sheffield
Pond Street
SHEFFIELD
S98 6HR

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Dear Mr Cope,

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request (Our Reference: KFEN-8WTE74)

I am writing in response to your recent request for information dated 02 August 2012 which has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

"I have heard that Royal Mail officials must enter/agree to the Official Secrets Act. If this is true what effect does this have on Freedom of Information? Also, what purpose is served by having postal workers enter such an agreement?"

All Royal Mail Group employees are required to sign a 'Personal Declaration' upon commencing their employment. This covers the responsibilities of Royal Mail and its employees in terms of safeguarding mail, how to deal with confidential information, our internal Code of Business Standards and the Data Protection Act 1998. The 'Personal Declaration' is not part of the Official Secrets Act, and the form makes no reference to this Act.

I can confirm that the requirement of an employee to sign a 'Personal Declaration' has no impact on Freedom of Information.

I hope the information provided is useful to you. If for any reason you are not satisfied with this response, you do have the right to request a review. If you wish to do so please set out in writing your grounds of appeal and send to the Head of Information Compliance, Royal Mail Group, Company Secretary's Office, 100 Victoria Embankment, LONDON, EC4Y 0HQ. An internal panel will then review the request, and you will be advised of the outcome.

Cont...

If you decide to appeal and are still not satisfied with our response you also have a right to 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

Kate Fearn
Information Rights Officer
Company Secretary's Office