



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

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Mr Tony Williams

Our ref 13/1151
Your ref

Email: Tony Williams (request-174184-2345a11d@whatdotheyknow.com)

20 September 2013

Dear Tony Williams

Thank you for your email of 22 August 2013 where you requested the following information:

“Could you please provide me with copies of all the correspondence between BIS and Ms Paula Vennells, MD of Post Office Ltd between 1st June 2012 and 31st May 2013.”

I can confirm that the Department holds information falling within the terms of your request; however we need more time to consider your request.

The Freedom of Information Act ('the Act') obliges us to respond to requests promptly and in any case not later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a 'qualified' exemption applies to the information and an accompanying public interest test is engaged, section 10(3) of the Act allows the time for response to be extended, in which case a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances.

The exemption which applies to the information that you have requested is section 36(2)(b), as disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice. Section 36(2)(b) is a qualified exemption, meaning that its application has been subject to the public interest test.

The Department has not yet reached a decision on the balance of the public interest. Due to the need to consider, in all the circumstances of the case, where the balance of the public interest lies in relation to the information that you have requested, the Department will not be able to respond to your request in full within 20 working days.

I hope to let you have a response by 18 October 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Post Office Network Team
Shareholder Executive
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET