



10 December 2018

Mr Phil Collyer

(by email only: [request-512527-79b432b1@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-512527-79b432b1@whatdotheyknow.com))

Dear Mr Collyer,

Cabinet Office Internal Review Reference: IR326760  
(Original Case Reference: FOI326760)

## REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your email of 13 October. You asked for an internal review of our response to your request for information of 22 August. In your request you asked for information in relation to the award of the Order of King Abdulaziz. Please accept my apologies for the delay taken in replying to your request for an internal review. This was due to an administrative error, and I can assure you that no discourtesy was intended.

I have carefully reviewed the handling of your request, and I consider that you have been provided with the information held by the Cabinet Office in relation to the queries set out in your initial request, which was already in the public domain. I have therefore concluded that I should uphold the handling of your initial request.

I have considered the points you raise in your request for an internal review. You ask for information as to why the medal was awarded to the Prime Minister. As you will be aware, the Act provides a qualified right of access to recorded information held by a public authority. It does not require a public authority to create information for the purposes of answering a request, or to provide comment or speculation. You also ask if such awards are kept by the recipient. As the initial reply made clear, in this instance the item was valued in excess of the amount allowed by the Ministerial Code, and that the item was therefore retained by the Department.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request for information you, have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House



Cabinet Office

70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

Web [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Eirian Walsh Atkins  
Head, FOI Clearing House  
Cabinet Office