

Steve Elibank [request-71374-c71e6c6b@whatdotheyknow.com]

10 June 2011

Dear Mr Elibank

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOI315002)

Thank you for your email of 12 May 2011 where you requested information about the Precedent Book. You requested:

'Please provide me with an electronic copy of the current Precedent Book, the existence of which I was alerted to by Lord Hennessey's oral evidence in the "Constitutional Implications of the Cabinet Manual" report, produced by the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee.

Note that I am not asking for the Cabinet Manual, and I am not asking for the pre-1950s Precedent Book currently available via the National Archives. I would like the current version.'

I can confirm that the Department holds information you are seeking. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts this information. This is because the information is intended for publication at a future date.

The Cabinet Office has considered whether there is a stronger public interest in releasing this information now ahead of future publication. It is important that when considering future publication of material, the Department is able to do this in an orderly and planned way. This is particularly the case considering the volume of material that you have requested. The Precedent Book consists of several volumes and while this will take a considerable amount of time to review the Department takes the view that this is the most efficient and effective use of its resources.

Having considered the public interest, the Department's decision is therefore to withhold this information.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.



If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Roger Smethurst
Head of Knowledge and Information Management
Cabinet Office
Admiralty Arch
London
SW1A 2WH

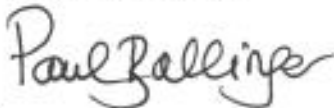
email: foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,



KATHRYN FAIRHURST