



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

BEIS Space Directorate  
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Our ref: IR2021/17477

Original case ref: FOI2021/15173

9 September 2021

Dear Mel F,

**Internal Review of response to Freedom of Information Request**

I am writing following your email of 8 July asking for an internal review of the response to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request. I am Director of BEIS Space Directorate in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and I undertook the review. When I carried out the review, I considered whether the original response to your request was correct. My decision is explained below.

Your original request was made on 12 June and asked for the following information:

*“Please provide me with any email correspondence (sent or received), meeting minutes or other records that relate to this matter. For the avoidance of doubt, I am interested in records that pre-date the formal commissioning of the review.”*

The Department responded to your request on 8 July. This explained that answering your FOI request would exceed the cost limit provided under Section 12 of the FOI Act.

The response stated that correspondence was spread across multiple teams and months. You challenged our timeline stating, “I explicitly limited my request to the timeframe before the landscape review was formally commissioned.”

In the year since the Space Landscape Review (SLR) began, the policy team responsible for space has been restructured. This has made it difficult to locate all information relevant to your request and means that staff outside our directorate would have to be inquired. We know some discussions on the SLR took place in June and July 2020, however, our records start midway during these discussions and provide an incomplete record. This incomplete record has made it difficult to determine the exact timeframe to search for information and therefore, our reasons for stating that multiple teams and months would

need to be searched. This in turn would increase the time and effort to locate, retrieve and extract any information relevant to your request.

Therefore, having considered the original response sent to you, in the light of your request for an internal review, I have concluded that the cost limit was fairly applied.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, 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, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evernden