



Cabinet Office

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G Webber

By email: [request-603584-2f526f9b@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-603584-2f526f9b@whatdotheyknow.com)>

FOI Reference:FOI328610

07/11/2019

Dear G Webber

I refer to your request where you asked:

Dear Cabinet Office,

Please can you disclose an electronic copy of all correspondence and other communications (whether formal or informal, in both written and electronic form, including but not limited to messaging services including WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Facebook messenger, private email accounts both encrypted and unencrypted, text messaging and iMessage and the use of both official and personal mobile phones) to, from or within the present administration, since 23 July 2019 relating to the prorogation of Parliament sent or received by one or more of the following individuals: Hugh Bennett, Simon Burton, Dominic Cummings, Nikki da Costa, Tom Irvén, Sir Roy Stone, Christopher James, Lee Cain or Beatrice Timpson.

Yours faithfully,

G Webber

I would first like to apologise for extending the deadline for your request under Section 35. After full consideration, I must inform you that the Cabinet Office is unable to comply with your request. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act relieves public authorities of the duty to comply with a request for information if the cost of dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 1/2 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The reason that your request exceeds the cost limit is that relevant information could be contained in very many files. Searching all those that might contain relevant information

to determine whether the Cabinet Office holds any information relevant to your request will exceed the appropriate limit laid down in the regulations.

There is a lot of information already in the public domain in relation to your request. For example, you may wish to consider reviewing recent Parliamentary activity that relates to the prorogation of Parliament in September 2019. Such relevant activity may include, for example:

- Prorogation of Parliament E-petition Debate, Westminster Hall (9 September 2019): <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-09-09/debates/1A26EFC3-A9AA-4302-B852-B5312AB2BC45/ProrogationOfParliament>
- Prorogation (Disclosure of Communications) Debate, Main Chamber (9 September 2019): [https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-09-09/debates/ACF1C7B2-087F-46D2-AB69-3520C0675BC8/Prorogation\(DisclosureOfCommunications\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-09-09/debates/ACF1C7B2-087F-46D2-AB69-3520C0675BC8/Prorogation(DisclosureOfCommunications))
- Prime Minister's Statement on the Supreme Court Judgment, Main Chamber (25 September 2019): <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-09-25/debates/AD2A07E5-9741-4EBA-997A-97776F80AA38/PrimeMinisterSUpdate?highlight=prime%20minister#contribution-B63CCB6F-7651-457D-9C95-2AA62C93FC8C>
- Legal Advice: Prorogation, Urgent Question, Main Chamber (25 September 2019): <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-09-25/debates/F3541B98-D4E9-487F-BE17-D51C6EF870F2/LegalAdviceProrogation>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI team quoting the reference number above.

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:

Tristan Pedelty  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS  
e-mail: [foiteam@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foiteam@cabinetoffice.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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B. M.', written in a cursive style.

FOI Team  
Cabinet Office