

Mr Paul Smith

Via email: request-53801-6ed4d165@whatdotheyknow.com

T 020 7811 6400

Our ref: FOI107

24 February 2011

*Dear Paul,*

Following my letter dated 25th January, I have now completed an internal review of your request under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and I am writing to let you know my conclusions.

Your request, contained in an e-mail dated 25th November and reiterated in an e-mail dated 21st January, was for IPSA to publish receipts for all expenses claimed by Andrew Mitchell MP. In response, IPSA provided detailed information on claims which had already been published, withholding only a small amount of sensitive personal information, the extent of which was identified in the reply. This response is predicated upon a policy decision by IPSA not to publish actual receipts or invoices, which they explained in their reply, dated 20th January 2011.

In reviewing their decision not to publish receipts and invoices, I am required to ask myself if it is consistent with the FOI Act. I find that it is consistent and that the various duties and exemptions have been applied correctly. Specifically:

- Section 1 of the FOI Act confers on requesters a general right of access to information held by IPSA, not the actual documents. Therefore, the decision not to publish the receipts themselves is well founded.
- Section 22(1) of the FOI Act exempts information which is intended for future publication. IPSA have provided you with information on claims already published. They have referred you to the next publication cycle for further claim details. This was due on 3rd February and has now taken place, so you have access to further information about Mr Mitchell's claims. IPSA have also invited you to request further information on these further claims.

I understand that the FOI team have written to you separately, on 17 February, to seek confirmation that you also wish to have a second internal review. This is relation to the decision of the qualified person to apply Section 36(2)(c) (prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs) to information on claims that were not approved prior to 15<sup>th</sup> September. The FOI team are currently awaiting your response.

If you remain dissatisfied with my decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office under section 50 of the FOI Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

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

*Yours sincerely,*

*Bob Evans.*

Bob Evans  
Director of Finance and Corporate Services