



Home Office

Information Rights Team
Performance Risk Directorate
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Clive Waterman
[request-239855-047aeb7e@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

20 February 2017

Dear Mr. Waterman,

Freedom of Information request – Time Complaint (Reference: 39234)

I am writing in response to your e-mail of 19 February 2017 in which you asked for an update as to when your Freedom of Information (FoI) request will be answered. I have carried out an internal review of the time taken to respond to your FoI request. I have now completed the review. I confirm that I have not previously been involved in the handling of your request.

Section 10(1) of the FoI Act requires that the Home Office should have informed you whether the information you requested was held, and if appropriate, have provided it to you within 20 working days of your request being received. Section 10(3) of the FoI Act requires that the Home Office should have informed you within this 20 working day period if additional time was required to consider the public interest considerations affecting the information you have requested. Our records show that in this instance a letter was sent to you on the 05 May 2016 informing you of the public interest test. The Act allows us to exceed the 20 working day response target where we need to consider the public interest test fully.

The public interest test is a complex process which enables decisions to be made on a case-by-case basis on where the balance between disclosing or withholding information lies.

I apologise on behalf of the department for the length of time which it is taking to provide you with a response to your request. The policy unit has been informed of your concerns and I can confirm that your request is under active consideration and is being treated as a matter of priority.

Yours sincerely

N McKenzie

N. McKenzie

Information Rights Team

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