

15 November 2010

Steve Elibank  
request-31040-8ac4fb41@whatdotheyknow.com  
(by email only)

*Dear Mr Elibank,*

**REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
2000**

Thank you for your email of 11 October 2010 which requested that I conduct an internal review of the handling of your FOI request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In your request you asked:

....please provide me with a \*full\* copy of the Manual of Protective Security, and a \*full\* copy of the Security Policy Framework: not the redacted/limited version(s) made available online.

The Cabinet Office has explained that your FOI request is being dealt with in two parts; the Manual of Protective Security (MPS) has been dealt with separately. A hard copy of the releasable material from the MPS was made available to you on 19 April 2010 though I understand you have not yet provided an address to which this information can be sent.

With regards to the Security Policy Framework (SPF), we have explained that this information has engaged several exemptions to which the public interest test applies, namely sections 24 (national security), 27 (international relations) and 40 (Personal data). The public interest test, as set out in section 2 of the Act, requires us to consider whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Given the volume of information contained in the SPF, together with the need to consult third parties, the process of considering the public interest test in relation to these exemptions has unavoidably taken time to complete. In reliance on section 10(3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have therefore extended the timescale for responding to your request. I am content that the extension of time was reasonable in the circumstances.

This process is nearing completion and we expect that a redacted version of the SPF will be made available to you by the end of November 2010.



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,*

*Zara Smart*

*pp.* SUE GRAY

