



Information Rights Team
Post Office Limited
1st Floor, Old Street Wing
148 Old Street
London
EC1V 9HQ
T 020 7250 2647

Ms Pat Aspinall
request-206915-b436064f@whatdotheyknow.com

Our reference: FOI201406100920

07 July 2014

Dear Ms Aspinall,

Ref: Freedom of Information Request – FOI201406100920

I am writing in response to your email dated 09 June 2014, which I am dealing with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In your email you have requested information to the following question:

Thank you, where can I gain sight of the April 2014 annual review.

I can confirm that Post Office Limited do hold the information you have requested, however we believe that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 43 (2) of the Act, concerning likely prejudice to commercial interests.

Commercial Interests

The annual review is undertaken for each branch on an individual basis as defined within the contract and described in the remuneration handbook, therefore the detail of the individual review is commercially confidential to each branch. We consider that if the requested information was disclosed it would be highly likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Post Office Limited and its Agents as current and potential future competitors would be given unfair insight into Post Office Limited's financial operations and strategy.

We believe that this would place Post Office Limited and its Agents at a commercial disadvantage to other companies, who would not be required to disclose equivalent information about their own business. Post Office Limited competes with a large number of commercial organisations and an example of how Post Office Limited's interests would likely be prejudiced by the disclosure of this information is how competitors could use the information in an advantageous way during recruitment exercises, placing Post Office Limited at a disadvantage.

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Public Interest

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and therefore the public interest test must be applied. This involves weighing the balance of public interest in maintaining the exemption or releasing the information. Post Office Limited understands that there is public interest in promoting the transparency and understanding of matters which are of interest to the public. However, there is also public interest in allowing the normal course of commercial activity to take place. On balance in our view, the greater public interest lies with maintaining the exemption.

Although the detail of the individual reviews has been exempt under Section 43 (2), we have summarised the outcome of the annual review at the network level in our previous responses to you under references: FOI201405081005 and FOI201404140925.

I am sorry that I couldn't provide you with the information you have requested on this occasion, however if you are dissatisfied with the handling of this response, you do have a right to request an internal review. You can do this by writing to the address below stating your reasons for your internal review request.

Senior Engagement & Involvement Manager
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1st Floor
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148 Old Street
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If, having requested an internal review by Post Office Limited, you are still not satisfied with our response you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Anna Gos
Information Rights Team Support
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<http://www.postoffice.co.uk/our-publication-scheme>