

2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

16 December 2015

Chris Gilmour

Via e-mail: request-300586-40ed1d33@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Gilmour

Freedom of Information request: reference 37408/37880

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 November and 15 December, in which you ask for:

- "1) The date, time, and recipient of every email sent by the Home Secretary during October 2015.
- 2) The date, time, and sender of every email received by the Home Secretary during October 2015.
- 3) The date, time, and recipient of every internet telephony call (e.g. "Skype" call) made by the Home Secretary during October 2015.
- 4) The date, time, and sender of every internet telephony call (e.g. "Skype" call) received by the Home Secretary during October 2015.
- 5) The date, time, and domain address of every website visited by the Home Secretary during October 2015."

and

- "1) The date, time, and recipient of every email sent by the Home Secretary during November 2015.
- 2) The date, time, and domain address of every website visited by the Home Secretary during November 2015."

Your requests have been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We have considered your requests and we believe them to be vexatious. Section 14(1) of the Act provides that the Home Office is not obliged to comply with a request for information of this nature. We have decided that your request is vexatious because it places an unreasonable burden on the department, because it has adopted a scattergun approach and seems solely designed for the purpose of 'fishing' for information without any idea of what might be revealed.

The requests are similar in nature to a request the Home Office received in 2014 that the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) agreed was vexatious. The decision notice in question can be found at this link:

https://search.ico.org.uk/ico/search/decisionnotice?keywords=FS50544833

Guidance issued by the ICO on vexatious requests can be found at this link: https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1198/dealing-with-vexatious-requests.pdf

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **37408**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Rights Team Home Office Fourth Floor, Peel Building 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

e-mail: foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely,

Ministerial Support Unit