



Attorney General's Office

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Claire Wilde

request-584556-71ae6644@whatdotheyknow.com

by email Only

26 July 2019

Dear Ms Wilde,

Freedom of Information request: FOI/135/19

I am writing in response to the Freedom of Information request you submitted to this office on 21st June 2019, which is copied in bold below:

Please can I request under the Freedom of Information Act:

An electronic spreadsheet file (e.g. Excel file) containing information about each trip taken within the UK by a minister within your department on official duties, from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

To include in separate columns:

- **Name of minister**
- **Full address of destination**
- **Postcode of destination**
- **Start date of trip**
- **End date of trip**
- **Purpose of trip**
- **Cost of trip (to include transport, meals and accommodation)**
- **Whether the minister was accompanied by spouse, family member(s) or friend at public expense (Yes/no. If yes, please provide details)**

If a minister who served during this time period made no UK trips on ministerial duties, please state their name with the entry 'No trips taken within UK'

To reiterate: I am aware information is published about ministers' overseas visits. It is visits within the UK that I request information about.

On 2nd July 2019 you provided clarification to your request, which is copied in bold below:

The following clarification may be helpful: By ministerial trip, I mean an engagement while on ministerial duties to any location except central Government or Parliamentary premises, regardless of the length of time of the trip.

The Freedom of Information Act (2000) gives individuals and organisations the right of access to all types of recorded information held, at the time the request is received, by public authorities such as the Attorney General's Office (AGO). That right is subject to certain exemptions.

I am refusing your request under Section 12 of the FOI Act. The law allows us to decline to answer FOI requests when we estimate that it would cost us more than £600 (equivalent to 24 hours of work, calculated at £25 per hour) to identify, locate, retrieve and then extract the information that has been requested. This exemption is contained in section 12(1) of FOIA, and the appropriate limit is specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

After undertaking an assessment of the information requested, which included performing a sample search for three weeks' worth of relevant information pertaining to one Minister, we have calculated that the cost to the AGO of providing the information in the scope of your request would total to over £600.

This assessment took into the consideration the time it would take to identify, locate, retrieve and extract the requested information, which is contained across multiple sources including but not limited to historic email diaries, meeting briefings, business financial data and Government Car Service Invoices.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the above address.

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

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