



Freedom of Information Team
Knowledge and Information Management Unit
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Gael Marks
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FOI Reference: FOI316753
7 August 2012

Dear Gael Marks,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

I refer to your request where you asked:

‘ Please send me the information surrounding the decision of ex PM Tony Blair to send special envoy Sheree Dodd to act as a "media liaison officer" for Gerry and Kate McCann so soon after Madeleine "vanished".

I would also like transcripts of all phone calls between Tony Blair and to included all departments within the UK Government, and the McCann team. I would like copies of all other communication between the UK Government and the McCann team.’

I can confirm that information you have requested is being considered for exemption under Section 31(1) (a) of the Act, which relates to law enforcement. Section 31 is subject to a public interest test and the Cabinet Office has not yet reached a decision on whether the balance of the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

By virtue of section 10(3), when public authorities have to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to a request, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances. Owing to the need to consider, in all the circumstances of the case, where the balance of the public interest lies in relation to your request, we will not be able to respond to your request in full within 20 working days. I hope to let you have a response by 5 September 2012. If I can reply before that date, I shall do so. If I need more time to consider the balance of the public interest, I shall write again to let you know.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team
Cabinet Office