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Ms Gael Marks

Email: request-120928-bddc1dcb@whatdotheyknow.com

22 October 2012

Dear Ms Marks,

REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000
Cabinet Office Internal Review Reference: IR 316753
(Original Case Reference: Fol 316753)

Thank you for your emails of 20 August 2012. You asked for an internal review of our response to your request for information of 16 August 2012. In your request you asked for information about the appointment of Sheree Dodd as the media liaison officer for the McCann family. You subsequently asked for information on the move of Clarence Mitchell to become a PR consultant to the McCann family.

I have carefully reviewed the handling of your request. I arranged for a new search of the archive to be conducted for any information on the appointment of Sheree Dodd as a media liaison officer for the McCann family. The Cabinet Office, which includes the Prime Minister's Office, does not hold any information on Sheree Dodd. In particular, we hold no records indicating that Sheree Dodd was 'sent' to act as a media liaison officer for the McCann family. Outside the scope of your request, I can inform you that we hold no records indicating that Sheree Dodd was either an employee of the Cabinet Office or the Prime Minister's Office.

In response to your email of 20 August I arranged for a search of the archive to be conducted for information on the move of Clarence Mitchell to become the PR consultant for the McCann family. The Cabinet Office, including the Prime Minister's Office, does not hold any information within scope of your email of 20 August. In particular, the Cabinet Office, including the Prime Minister's Office, does not hold any records indicating that Clarence Mitchell was 'sent' to act as a public relations spokesman for the McCann family. However, outside the scope of your email, I can inform you that our records indicate that Clarence Mitchell was an employee of the Cabinet Office from 4 July 2005 to 31 March 2006 where he held a permanent position at the Government Communication (Media Monitoring) Unit. From 1 April 2006 to September 2007 he continued to work at the Media Monitoring Unit, which had transferred to the Central Office of Information.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request for information 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

ROGER SMETHURST