



Cabinet Office

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70 Whitehall
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www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Joseph Lloyd

By email: request-732324-60772c20@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2021/04513
19/03/2021

Dear Joseph Lloyd

I refer to your two requests where you asked:

'I wish to see all minutes, agendas and briefing notes for the Winter control and coordination cell meetings.'

Please also include any other materials that were handed out or received during the meetings, such as presentation slides, brochures, reports, and leaflets.'

We are writing to inform you that the Cabinet Office is unable to comply with your request. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act relieves public authorities of the duty to comply with a request for information if the cost of dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 1/2 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The reason that your request exceeds the cost limit set out in section 12 is that a number of officials from the Winter Coordination and Control Cell attended a large number of different meetings relating to a wide range of Cabinet Office activity. There is not one central depository where all the information in scope is collated and so to comply with your request as it is currently formulated would require all the officials involved with the Winter Coordination and Control Cell to search all the meetings they

attended in order to gather the information in scope. The Winter Coordination and Control Cell was a temporary team that helped coordinate activity across the Cabinet Office relating to the COVID-19 response, the end of the transition period and seasonal risks like flooding over the course of winter 2020/21. Therefore the large number of meetings which members of the Winter Coordination and Control Cell were involved with combined with the various types of information you have request mean that it is not possible to conduct a meaningful search for all the information in scope.

If you wish to refine your request to bring it within the section 12 cost limit then I would suggest specifying which meetings in particular you are requesting materials for and perhaps limiting the variety of information you are requesting from those meetings. You may also wish to consider including a specific timeframe so that a search for the information requested can be conducted within 3 ½ working days.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Rachel Anderson
Head of Freedom of Information
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued. If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Brown', written in a cursive style.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office