

Low Pay Commission

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16 April 2013

Ref: LPC/FOI/2013/05

By email only

Dear Mr White,

I am responding to your request dated 14 April 2013 under the Freedom of Information Act (Fol) requesting "copies of any communication or instructions received from any Minister or Civil Servant of the United Kingdom Government from 10th May 2010 to 15th April 2013".

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. We estimate that it will take us in excess of 3.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require us to look at every record file we hold and every record within each file as each may, or may not, have some communication from Government officials (e.g. an email saved may contain communications from officials, but this would not necessarily be apparent from its title, so every record would have to be viewed in its entirety). We hold a large number of record files for each year and the amount of records within each file varies considerably.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you are able to

do this, please come back to me, quoting the above number, and we will then consider the request.

If you have any queries about this reply, please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Appeals procedure

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 letter and should be addressed to me, at 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gerry Franks', written over a horizontal line.

Gerry Franks
Senior Policy Adviser