



Department of Health

05/02/2014

DE00000833710

Dear Ms Woolf,

Thank you for your request of 9 January 2014 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

“Under the freedom of information act, please send me a list of all meetings, telephone conversations and emails and text messages between representatives and employees of tobacco and cigarette companies and ministers and civil servants in the department of health - but not hospitals or its outside agencies - since May 2010. Please list all meetings and attendees and attach any minutes or notes of conversations, and if possible say what the meeting was about and what it covered. Please attach all emails/text messages.”

In order to answer your request, we identified the Tobacco policy team as being the most likely team in the Department to hold the information you are seeking.

A search of this team’s records returned some information falling within the scope of your request.

Please see below a list of meetings with the Industry as well as emails between the Department and tobacco industry representatives.

1. Meeting with Imperial Tobacco
2. Meeting with British American Tobacco
3. Meeting with Philip Morris International
4. Meeting with Japan Tobacco International
5. Visit to Imperial Tobacco Factory

As the Department has published the minutes of meetings 1-4, we will, under section 21 of the FOI Act (information accessible to the applicant by other means), refer you to the published sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meetings-between-department-of-health-and-tobacco-companies-de766508>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proposals-to-introduce-standardised-tobacco-packaging-de775233>

Minutes of the visit are attached as Document one.

We do not hold any records of telephone conversations or text messages with stakeholders including the Tobacco Industry.

We are also releasing correspondence between the Department and the tobacco companies as attached.

- Philip Morris International - Document two
- Japan Tobacco International – Document three
- Imperial Tobacco – Document four
- RJ Reynolds Tobacco – Document five
- British American Tobacco – Document six

Further information relevant to your request is already in the public domain, and so, again, under section 21 of the FOI Act, we will refer you to the published sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/correspondence-regarding-the-eu-tobacco-products-directive>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/correspondence-between-philip-morris-internationalphilip-morris-ltd-and-dh>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/correspondence-between-department-of-health-and-philip-morris-international>

Please note that some of this information has been redacted under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act which provides for the protection of personal information. Section 40 prohibits a public body from disclosing personally identifiable information as doing so would contravene data protection principles. It is possible that information falling within the scope of your request may exist elsewhere in the Department but to comply with your request definitively by conducting a search across the whole of the Department would exceed the cost limit as set out in Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 12(1) states that a public authority can refuse a request if complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 (which represents 3.5 working days). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending this time in determining whether the information is held, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Therefore, mindful of the team's files that we have already searched, if you were to refine your request for information - perhaps by identifying a particular team in the Department - then we may be able to continue processing your

request. However, I cannot guarantee that Section 12 or any other exemptions will not apply to any information requested.

To assist in narrowing your request, you may wish to view the Department's organogram, which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dh-organogram-on-1-april-2013>

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

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:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
Room 520
Richmond House
79 Whitehall,
London
SW1A 2NS

Email: freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely,

Danny Lamond

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk