



Attorney
General's
Office

Attorney General's Office
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By email only;

13th August 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Request – Our ref; FOI|133|13

Thank you for your request for information, which you sent on 17 July 2013. You requested that the Attorney General releases all primary documents in relation to:

- (i) *advice given to the UK government in relation to Campbell and Cosans v. United Kingdom (1982) in the European Court of Human Rights;*
- (ii) *recommendations to the UK government on ensuring compliance with the verdict in the above-mentioned case, from the period 1982 to 1986;*
- (iii) *general representations made to the UK government on the constitutionality/legality of school corporal punishment in the period 1975 – 1985; and*
- (iv) *files on all cases related to corporal punishment in state schools in which the Attorney-General represented the UK government either in a Crown Court, or in a European Court. This should span the period 1975 - 1990 and should include all cases in which an out-of-court settlement was reached.*

I am dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

The Attorney General's Office holds some of the information you have requested. However, I consider that the following exemptions apply to your request:

- Section 35 of the Act. This section applies to information that relates to the formulation or development of government policy, ministerial communications, the provision of advice by any of the Law Officers and the operation of ministerial private offices.
- Section 42 of the Act. This section applies to information that would be subject to legal professional privilege if litigation were in progress. Legal professional privilege covers confidential communications between lawyers and clients and certain other information that is created for the purposes of litigation. Legal advice relating to rights and obligations can also be covered. Section 42 ensures that the confidential relationship between lawyer and client is protected.

The Act obliges public authorities to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, where one of the exemptions listed above is applicable, the public authority must consider whether the public interest lies in disclosing or withholding the information. In these circumstances the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days.

In your case we anticipate that we will be in a position to let you have a response by 30th August 2013. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

If you have any queries about this letter, 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: Rowena Collins Rice 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

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Freedom of Information Officer

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