



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA  
020 7930 4433  
[www.number10.gov.uk](http://www.number10.gov.uk)

5 July 2011

Dear Mr Bennett

Thank you for your letter of 18 May – received on 23 May – about the disappearance of Madeleine McCann.

Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Freedom of Information Act provides the requestor with an access right to recorded information. It does not extend to requests for views, comments or questions about a particular matter. Your request can be in the form of a question, but a public authority does not have to answer your question if this would mean creating new information or giving an opinion or judgement that is not already recorded.

I will therefore confine my response to the “Freedom of Information Act” questions set out on the last page of your letter.

1. *Please specify on what dates you or your staff, in connection with the Madeleine McCann case, have either met, or had email or telephone communications with all of the following:*

- a) Dr Gerald McCann*
- b) Dr Kate McCann*
- c) Clarence Mitchell*
- d) Any other adviser to the McCanns*
- e) Sir Paul Stephenson*
- f) Any other officers of the Metropolitan Police*
- g) Any members of the family of Rupert Murdoch*
- h) Any staff of the Sun*
- i) Any staff of the News of the World*

We hold a copy of a letter from Mr and Mrs McCann. This is being withheld under section 40(2) (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act



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If you are unhappy with the level of service you have received from this office in relation to any aspect of your request, you may ask for an internal review.

You should contact:

Roger Smethurst  
Head of Knowledge and Information Management Unit  
Admiralty Arch  
North Entrance  
The Mall  
LONDON SW1A 2WH

Email: [foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.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 the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

2000, in reliance on section 40(3)(a)(i). This exemption, by virtue of section 2(3)(f)(ii), is an absolute exemption.

We also hold a copy of the Prime Minister's reply of 12 May 2011. As this is already in the public domain it is exempt under section 21 (information accessible by other means).

2. *On what date did you agree with the Home Secretary and Sir Paul Stephenson that the Met Police (Scotland Yard) should carry out a review of the case costing £3.5 million?*

We hold the following information

**Home Office statement 12 May:**

"The government's primary concern has always been and remains the safe return of Madeleine. Although she disappeared in Portugal, and the Portuguese retain the lead responsibility in the case, law enforcement agencies here have continued to follow up leads and pass information to the Portuguese authorities as appropriate.

"The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary have today agreed with Sir Paul Stephenson that the Metropolitan Police will bring its particular expertise to this case. Clearly, the detail of what that will entail will be a matter of operational judgment and it would not be appropriate to discuss at this stage."

3. *On what date did you agree with the Editor of the Sun that they would simultaneously publish your letter in reply to the letter from Dr Gerald McCann?*

We do not hold information in relation to this request.

Yours sincerely

*N Howard*

**NICHOLAS HOWARD**

Mr Anthony Bennett