



Information Commissioner's Office

Upholding information rights

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Mr Ian Lister
Information Access Team
Home Office
Information Access Team
Information Management Service
Home Office
4th Floor Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street, London
SW1P 4DF

13 September 2010

Case Reference Number FS50312399

Dear Mr Lister

As you are aware, the ICO has received a complaint from Mr Bennett. On 19 March 2010, Mr Bennett made a request for information to the Home Office. The Home Office failed to provide a substantive response for several months. You have confirmed that a response has now been issued and provided a copy to this office today which is appreciated.

As you will be aware, a public authority in receipt of such a request has a duty to deal with them promptly and, in any event, within 20 working days. There are some exceptions, particularly where additional time is required to consider the public interest in disclosing exempt information. However, the Home Office has taken over four months to consider the public interest in this case and provide this response to Mr Bennett.

The Commissioner recognises that in this particular instance you have acknowledged and apologised for the breach and he does not consider, therefore, that there is any strong public interest in issuing a decision notice.



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He does, however, draw your attention to his published guidance on this matter (http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/detailed_specialist_guides/awareness_guidance_11_-_time_for_compliance.pdf)

You will appreciate that in the event of other, similar complaints, the Commissioner may consider taking enforcement action under s.52 of the Act.

I have copied this letter to the requester.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amanda Latimer'.

Amanda Latimer
Senior Complaints Officer