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Your Reference:
Our Reference SLB/LCB/5757/H
Date: 14 March 2003

Dear Sirs

MARTIN JOHN HOSSACK

I refer to your letter of 7 February.

In response to your numbered paragraphs:-

1. The group of people who have access to our computer records is too large for the individuals to be named. In any event, when the computer records are accessed by any individual a record of that access is kept on the system. There is no record of anybody actually accessing the records relating to your client at any time relevant to this issue, so the question of who might have had access seems to me not one that is worth pursuing.
2. An internal investigation was undertaken by Mr Merrick, who examined both the computer and paper records. Mr Merrick found no evidence of these records having been accessed with a view to passing on the information that was disclosed. Nonetheless the Department has accepted that unauthorised and inadvertent disclosure took place.
4. The work is split indeed between staff on an alphabetical basis. However, given that our investigation has found no evidence of any records being accessed at the relevant time, and that the Department has accepted responsibility for the unauthorised inadvertent disclosure, I do not consider there is anything to be gained in pursuing this line.
5. The Department of course regrets that the unauthorised inadvertent disclosure was not acknowledged more promptly. But I hope the apologies expressed since make up for this.

See letter 13



DIVISION OF PEOPLE