

As you will be aware, the Department provides a service to very large numbers of customers and our resources cannot constantly be diverted to dealing with unreasonable requests. Your correspondence has already taken up large amounts of staff time and formed a significant burden to the Department. In reaching this decision the Department considers that the aggregated effects of dealing with your requests should be taken into account. The volume of correspondence containing requests along the same theme, over a lengthy period, has taken up a very large amount of time and, in turn, public money to deal with.

You, or people acting for you such as solicitors or your Member of Parliament, have sent the Department over 50 letters in the same subject area from 22 April 2002 to 6 September 2006. Nearly all of these letters needed to be considered by more than the individual official to whom they were addressed. Indeed, letters from solicitors usually need to be referred to the Department's own solicitors as do many of the other letters you have sent.

I must therefore inform you that future correspondence in relation to the inadvertent breach of the Data Protection Act that occurred in January 2002, will be acknowledged only.

If you are not satisfied with my reason for not giving you the information you ask for please tell me why. I will then arrange for an internal review of your request and my decision. The review will be conducted by another officer of a more senior grade to myself who took no part in my original decision. The reviewing officer will advise you of his decision in writing.

If you are still not satisfied after we have looked at your request again, you can then ask the Information Commissioner to look into the way your request has been handled. The Commissioner is an independent officer who is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen and reports directly to Parliament. The Commissioner can see all the papers about your request and decide whether my actions are fair and meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Helpline  
Telephone: 01625 545 745  
Fax: 01625 545 510