

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: **22 December 2022**

Public Authority: **Greater London Authority**

Address: **City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London
E16 1ZE**

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant requested information about the security measures around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II. By the date of this notice the Greater London Authority ("GLA") had not issued a substantive response to this request.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the GLA has breached section 10(1) of FOIA in that it failed to provide a valid response to the request within the statutory time frame of 20 working days.
3. The Commissioner requires the GLA to take the following step to ensure compliance with the legislation.
 - The GLA must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.
4. The GLA must take this step within 35 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Request and response

5. On 3 October 2022 the complainant wrote to the GLA and requested information in the following terms:

"SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AROUND BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND WESTMINSTER AT THE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN JUNE 2022 – APPLICATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 AND/OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2000

I seek the following information concerning the security measures around Buckingham Palace and Westminster during the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II.

1. Did the Greater London Authority make the decision to employ private security marshals at the entrances to the closed roads and open spaces and in them regarding the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II?
2. If so, who in the Greater London Authority made the decision to employ private security marshals at the entrances to the closed roads and open spaces and in them regarding the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II?
3. If so, are there any Greater London Authority Decisions that decided that private security marshals would be engaged and employed regarding the above event and if so, I request a copy of the relevant decision or decisions?
4. If the Greater London Authority engaged a private security company as in question 1, what is the name of the private Security Company that engaged the private security marshals for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II?
5. If the Greater London Authority engaged a private security company as in question 1, did the private security marshals have any special or statutory powers to prevent members of the public from entering the closed road and open spaces or to give members of the public directions where they could go within the closed road and open spaces and if so what were the statutory powers or delegated authority that was given?

6. If the Greater London Authority engaged a private security company as in question 1, are there any Greater London Authority Decisions relating to this and if so, I request a copy of the relevant decision or decisions?

7. If the Greater London Authority engaged a private security company as in question 1, what were the costs of engaging the private security company for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II?"

6. The GLA acknowledged the request on 3 October 2022. To date, a substantive response has not been issued.

Scope of the case

7. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 10 November 2022 to complain about the GLA's failure to respond to their request.
8. The Commissioner has considered whether the GLA has complied with its obligations in relation to the time for compliance at section 10(1) of FOIA.

Reasons for decision

9. Section 1(1) of FOIA states that:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled –

(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and

(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him."

10. Section 10(1) of FOIA states that a public authority must respond to a request promptly and "not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt".

11. On 1 December 2022 the Commissioner wrote to the GLA reminding it of its responsibilities and asking it to provide a substantive response to the complainant's request within 10 working days.
12. Despite this intervention the GLA has failed to respond to the complainant.
13. From the evidence provided to the Commissioner in this case, it is clear that the GLA did not deal with the request for information in accordance with FOIA. The Commissioner finds that the GLA has breached section 10(1) by failing to respond to the request within 20 working days and it is now required to respond to the request in accordance with FOIA.

Right of appeal

14. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatorychamber

15. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
16. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

Michael Lea Team Manager

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF