

15 August 2023

## **IC-250943-H2P7**

### **Request**

You asked us:

*"Please provide copies of all correspondence between the MP for High Peak, Robert Langan, and Serco. Please include information about a briefing provided to Mr Langan by Serco in March 2023, concerning the use of premises in Buxton as an asylum dispersal centre. Serco administers services on behalf of the Home Office and, as such, is acting as a government body."*

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

### **Our response**

We have conducted a search based on the information you have provided. We interpreted your request as being for information held regarding Serco Group PLC and its subsidiaries. We do not hold information in scope of your request.

It is important to note that the Information Commissioner's Office is unlikely to hold correspondence between two organisations except where this correspondence has been provided to us as part of an information rights complaint or investigation. While the ICO is the regulatory body for information rights concerns, we are not an information repository; nor does the ICO routinely submit information rights requests to third party organisations to obtain information on an individual's behalf.

We would ordinarily recommend that an individual seeking information under the information rights legislation should contact the relevant organisations directly. However, we should also advise that individual MPs are not public authorities for the purposes of the FOIA. Similarly, as a public limited company, Serco Group PLC is also unlikely to be a public authority for the purposes of FOIA.

If you are seeking information regarding MP Robert Lorgan's correspondence with Serco Group PLC on this topic, we would therefore recommend that you contact the government department that has contracted Serco Group PLC to carry out its activities in this area.

This concludes our response to your information request.

### **Next steps**

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full review procedure [here](#).

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint through our website](#).

### **Your information**

Our [Privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and set out your rights. Our retention schedule can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely



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