

Review IC-277113-Y4G3

This is our response to your email of 4 January 2024 in which you requested a review of the handling of information request IC-277113-Y4G3.

I am a Group Manager in the Information Access Team. I have had no significant prior involvement in the handling of your request.

The purpose of an internal review is to look again at your request, at our response, and to check that any exemptions applied were appropriate.

Having reviewed the response in detail, I am satisfied that it was correct to refuse the request in reliance upon s12 FOIA, on account of the request exceeding the appropriate cost limit.

It is my understanding from your email of 4 January that the reason you have requested a review is because the ICO failed to comply with s16 FOIA.

Section 16 FOIA concerns the provision of advice and assistance to information requestors. According to the guidance on the ICO website, in relation to requests that exceed the appropriate limit, public authorities should help an applicant (requestor) reframe the request in a way that would bring it within the appropriate limit.

I can see that in the response dated 21 December 2023 you have indeed been provided with thorough advice and assistance, including suggestions that may bring the request under the appropriate limit. It may be helpful to outline that whilst the response did not explicitly say the advice and assistance was given under s16, that is in effect what it is.

I apologise for any confusion that may have arisen through us not clearly pointing to s16, but having considered the response, in particular the advice and assistance, I am satisfied that you received an appropriate response to your request.

For the above reason, the review is not upheld.

Complaint procedure

If you're not satisfied with the outcome of this review, you can make a formal complaint to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled by a separate, independent team of ICO staff, just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can raise that type of complaint through our website:
<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>

Your information

Our Privacy notice explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us and what your rights are. Our retention schedule can be

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