

2 April 2024

Case Reference IC-296719-Z3V9

Request

You asked us:

"please clarify whether the ICO is part of the Government and, if so, whether the Commissioner and the staff working for the ICO are civil servants bound by the Civil Service Code. Please also clarify whether the ICO is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and if your Solicitors are part of the Government Legal Department."

We received your request on 26 March 2024.

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

Our response

The ICO is not part of the UK government or the Civil Service.

It is an independent body, and the Information Commissioner is legally designated as a 'corporation sole' which is appointed by 'Letters Patent' issued by the UK's head of state. This is explained in the [Data Protection Act 2018](#). You can find out more about us on our website here:

<https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/who-we-are/>

ICO staff are not civil servants, so the Code does not technically apply. However, our [Code of Conduct](#) is similar to it.

The ICO itself is not regulated by the SRA, but we do have solicitors who are regulated by the SRA.

Please find the relevant link to the SRA's website below. You will find a list of our SRA-regulated solicitors on that page:

<https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/register/organisation/?sraNumber=64684>

As follows, our solicitors are not part of the UK government's legal department, because the ICO is not part of the government.

Technically, this information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA, because the information is accessible elsewhere. However, it was just as practical to simply provide you with the information in this response.

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](#) on our website.

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 sets out [your rights](#). Our [Retention and Disposal Policy](#) details how long we keep information.

Yours sincerely



Information Access Team
Strategic Planning and Transformation
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water
Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF
ico.org.uk twitter.com/iconews
Please consider the environment before printing this email
**For information about what we do with personal
data see our [privacy notice](#)**