

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Public Authority:** HM Treasury  
**Address:** 1 Horse Guards Road  
SW1A 2HQ

#### **Decision (including any steps ordered)**

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1. The complainant requested information from HM Treasury (HMT) about infected blood compensation.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that HMT breached section 10(1) of FOIA by failing to provide a valid response to the request within the statutory time frame of 20 working days. No steps are required.

#### **Request and response**

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3. On 2 May 2023, the complainant made the following request for information:

"Under FOIA, Please provide copies of all e-mail correspondence (including attachments) sent to OR from James Bowler during the period 1st Feb 2023 - 1st May 2023 that relate to Infected Blood Compensation."

4. HMT responded to the request for information on 13 June 2023.

#### **Reasons for decision**

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5. 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."

6. 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".
7. From the evidence provided to the Commissioner in this case, it is clear that HMT did not deal with the request for information in accordance with FOIA. The Commissioner finds that HMT has breached section 10(1) by failing to respond to the request within 20 working days.

## Right of appeal

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8. 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](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

9. 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.
10. 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**