

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 6 June 2024

Public Authority: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Address: Kings Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Request:

The complainant requested the following information from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on 24 February 2024:

“The complete minutes of the first two meetings of the “Rebuttal Unit” that was launched by the Department for International Development (DFID) in March 2017 (please see - <https://www.prweek.com/article/1426324/dfid-launches-rebuttal-unit-counter-negative-coverage-british-aid> - for background information about the “Rebuttal Unit”)”

Commissioner’s Decision:

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

Steps:

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 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.

Right of Appeal:

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-regulatory-chamber

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF**