

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)
Decision notice**

Date: 17 May 2024

Public Authority: The Information Commissioner
Address: Wycliffe House
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant requested the name and contact details of a member of staff.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the above public authority ("the public authority") failed to respond to the request within 20 working days and therefore breached section 10 of FOIA.
3. The Commissioner does not require further steps.

Request and response

4. On 7 March 2024, the complainant wrote to a caseworker at the public authority and requested information in the following terms:

"As a freedom of information request please provide the name and email address of your manager."
5. The case officer concerned provided the name of their manager on 25 March 2024 but stated:

"I cannot disclose the email address of my line manager"
6. On 13 May 2024, the line manager in question emailed the complainant (thus providing their email address) and apologised for the failure to provide contact details.

Reasons for decision

7. The Commissioner considers that the request in question constituted a valid request for recorded information under FOIA.
8. In a conversation with the Commissioner's office, the complainant argued that the public authority had also breached section 17 of FOIA.
9. Section 17 requires a public authority to provide a refusal notice where it is relying on an exemption and to do so within 20 working days. The public authority did not rely on any exemption, nor was it entitled to do so. There was thus no obligation to provide a refusal notice and no breach of section 17 could have occurred.
10. In failing to confirm that it held the requested email address and in failing to provide that email address to the complainant, the public authority breached section 10 of FOIA.
11. As the requested information has now been communicated to the complainant, no further steps are required.

Right of appeal

12. 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

13. 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.
14. 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

Roger Cawthorne
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