



HM Treasury

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Dear Mr Howarth

Ref: FOI2014/06995

## Freedom of Information Act 2000: European Union

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry which we received on 10 December.

You asked for the following information from October-November 2014 –

- *"All analysis, correspondence and memorandums concerning whether the EU's request for an additional £1.7bn was subject to the UK's rebate;*
- *All correspondence with other EU member states or the EU institutions questioning whether the £1.7bn surcharge was subject to the UK's rebate;*
- *All analysis on how the UK's rebate relating to the £1.7bn surcharge is calculated;*
- *All analysis and correspondence on how the recalculation of UK Gross National Income between 2002 and 2014 impacts the UK's EU budget contributions and UK's EU budget rebate;*
- *All correspondence in 2014 between Her Majesty's Treasury, the Cabinet Office and the Office for National Statistics on the issue of how the recalculation of UK GNI would or could impact the UK's EU budget contributions."*

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

However, despite the more limited timeframe, we are still unable to process it within the appropriate limit. Each potentially related piece of information that we have identified needs to be considered individually in order to ascertain whether it is in fact covered by your request. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days determining whether the Treasury holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting that information. Given the volume of documents it

is clear we would not be able to complete the necessary search and analysis within that time limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, departments are not obliged to comply with requests in these circumstances, and we are therefore unable to respond to your request. You may wish to significantly reduce the timeframe of your request. However, I cannot guarantee that this would bring the request within the required time limit.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.



Fay Wiltshire  
Information Rights Unit

### **Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/Blue, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

Email [FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk)

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.