

Our ref:
Your ref:

[Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

4th Floor South
Lateral
8 City Walk
Leeds LS11 9AT

Direct Line:
8 September 2008

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

JEFFERSON HOUSE

I refer to your letter of 23 July 2008 in which you requested information, under FOI, about the assignment of the Jefferson House lease to Atos Origin. [Name removed under the Data Protection Act] wrote to you on 13 August 2008 to advise you that the time-limit needed to be extended as the information requested had to be assessed under one of the exemptions to which a public interest test applies.

I am now able to respond to your letter and can confirm that we do hold the information you have requested. To answer your questions in order:

1. The total sums contributed by Atos Origin to the rent and rates (there is no service charge) at Jefferson House since December 2007 is £318,824.00.
2. We have not charged Atos Origin for the use of meeting rooms.
- 3,4,5. The majority (90 %) of information held on this can be released and is provided at Annex A. Some of the information in the documents has been redacted under exemption S.43 (1) & (2) Commercial Interests of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information cannot be released while we are likely to be in negotiations with any third parties over Jefferson House, as it would harm the Agency's negotiating position. The names and details of non civil servants and civil servants below PB8 have also been redacted.

Some of the information held cannot be disclosed at this time while negotiations with Atos Origin are still ongoing. The information is also being withheld under exemption S.43 (1) & (2) Commercial Interests. These documents will be released once the negotiations with Atos have been concluded. Annex B lists the documents being withheld.

In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

The attached Annex C to this letter sets out the exemption in full and details why the public interest test favours withholding the information.

6. The decision by ATOS not to take an assignment of the Jefferson House lease has not cost the Agency anything. The decision to pursue an assignment was voluntary on the part of both parties and would only have resulted in an assignment if both parties could have reached an agreement.

7. A capital payment would have been paid to Atos Origin had a deal been possible. This is standard commercial practice and represents a compensatory payment that represents a transfer of risk and the potential cost of a fit-out to suit a new lessee. These figures have been withheld under s.43 Commercial Interests as explained in response to question 3 above.

The information provided will now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

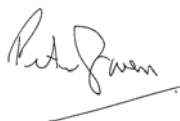
If you are unhappy with the decisions made by us in relation to your request, you may ask for an internal review. Enclosed is a copy of our internal review process. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Peter Gruen
Head of PFM