



HM Government

**Simon Case**  
**Cabinet Secretary**  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon Emily Thornberry MP  
Shadow Attorney General  
House of Commons  
SW1A 0AA

*via email*

21 March 2024

Dear Ms Thornberry,

Thank you for your letter in which you set out your concerns over the handling of your FOI request, F012023/06755, to which the Cabinet Office responded on 6 March 2024.

I should first apologise for the length of time it took to respond to your request. The Cabinet Office makes every effort to respond to FOI requests within the twenty working day limit set out in the legislation. A delay of a year is exceptional and falls below the standard we would want for any response.

I have looked at the issues you raise in your letter and can confirm that the journalist was notified shortly before you received your reply. This was not the intent and was an error in the sequencing of the messages. It should be the case that the requester receives the FOI first and we endeavour to make sure that happens and should have done so in this case.

I apologise, once again, for the lengthy delay in providing you with a final response and the figures that you had requested.

Yours sincerely,

**SIMON CASE**