



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Ministry of Finance

Reference Number: 724

Samantha Strangeways
The Royal Gazette
2 Pa-La-Ville Road
Hamilton HM08

29 March, 2023

Dear Ms. Strangeways,

Re: Public Access to Information Act 2010 – Notice of Refusal of Request on Administrative Grounds

Thank you for your request dated 3 March 2023 received on the same date.

Please be advised that your request for information has been carefully considered. Unfortunately, the records that you have requested does not exist after all reasonable steps have been take to find it. The Ministry of Finance Headquarters does not hold the records you have requested and, to our knowledge, the record is not held by any other public authority - s.16 (1)(a).

Steps Taken For Reasonable Search

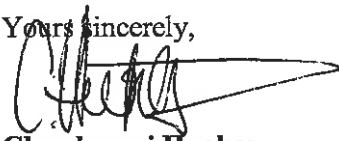
- A detailed email was drafted and sent to the relevant officers who have direct knowledge or some knowledge of the topic of the request. Guidance was provided to the relevant officers which included the request details, search terms for conducting a search, how to conduct a search, and a deadline to produce any findings relevant to the request.
- An update discussion was held 10 March 2023 with the relevant officers to identify whether the search was conducted and if any findings where discoverable during their search.
- A further email was sent on the 27 March 2023, to the relevant officer(s) to confirm this discussion in writing. It was confirmed that there was no business case developed for these fees. No final fee has been agreed and therefore nothing has been included in the budget for PATI fees.

Under section 41 of the Public Access to Information Act 2010, a requester has a right to a review by the authority of any decision made by the authority with respect to a request or of any failure

to take any action required under the Act in respect of such a request including a decision to grant or refuse to grant access to a record. Ordinarily to make a written request for a review you would have been advised to write to the Head of Authority Acting Financial Secretary Cheryl-Ann Lister. However in these circumstances she was the officer to which the primary source of data would have come from and thus be conflicting for Ms. Lister to handle the internal review. Given this position if you disagree with this decision we advise to write to the Information Commissioner for an Information Commissioner Review.

Please quote the reference number provided above in any future correspondence on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chardonnai Hughes', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chardonnai Hughes
Information Officer
cvhughes@gov.bm