



**Howell James CBE**

**Permanent Secretary, Government  
Communication**

70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

Telephone 020 7276 0650  
Fax 020 7276 0822  
E-mail howell.james@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

29 June 2006

Chris Ames Esq.  
31 Upper Court Road  
Epsom  
KT19 8RE

Internal Review ref: FOI241741  
Original FOI request ref: FOI240450

*Dear Mr. Ames,*

**REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
2000**

Thank you for your e-mail of 29 March 2006 which requested that I conduct an internal review of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have also seen your e-mail of 23 June 2006.

In your request you asked whether:

- 1) 'the judgement in the 10 September draft of the dossier (Para 19) that, given sufficient material from abroad, it would take at least two years for Iraq to make a working nuclear device based on a formal assessment?
- 2) If so, please provide details, i.e. of the assessment and the officials/advisers reaching the judgement.
- 3) Otherwise, what was the process by which this judgement was reached?
- 4) Was the judgement in the 16 September draft (para 24) and subsequent drafts that, given sufficient fissile material from abroad, Iraq could produce a nuclear weapon in between one and two years based upon a formal assessment?
- 5) If so, please provide details, i.e. of the assessment and the officials/advisers reaching the judgement.
- 6) Otherwise, what was the process by which this judgement was reached?
- 7) What caused the shortening of the timescale between these drafts?
- 8) What comments were received on the accuracy and/or public relations impact of the position set out in the 10 September draft and from whom?



Having carefully considered your request, in respect of the first seven parts I uphold the original decision. I judge that to find out whether or not we hold information relating to these requests would cost the Cabinet Office more than the appropriate limit of £600, or 3.5 working days. In relation to the eighth part of your request (What comments were received on the accuracy and/or public relations impact of the position set out in the 10 September draft and from whom?), I can confirm that the Cabinet Office does not hold any information.

In light of my response I confirm that the Cabinet Office has discharged its duty to provide advice and assistance so far as is reasonable.

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

*Howell*

*Howell James* →

**HOWELL JAMES**

