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by email: xxx

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xxxx
Department for Transport
5/11 Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DR
Direct Line: xxx
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Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI0007888

10 August 2011

Dear xxx,

I refer to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) as follows: -

*"Please detail the number of times **Philip Hammond, Secretary of State for Transport** met with executives of, and journalists from, News International and News Corp between 12 May 2010 and 13 July 2011. In each case please identify*

- a. The person(s) from those organisations and their job title(s)*
- b. The date and time of the meeting*
- c. The nature of the meeting*
- d. The title of the meeting if applicable*

(By meeting I refer to any occasion he met with these people in the capacity as a member of the government. This would, therefore, include semi-social occasions such Christmas parties, drinks receptions etc.)"

I am writing to advise you that the Department for Transport (the department) does hold information that is relevant to your request dated 14 July 2011 but regret to inform you of my decision not to disclose this information to you.

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information, which is already reasonably accessible to you. The attached Annex A sets out this exemption in full.

Details of the Secretary of State's meeting with proprietors, editors and senior media executives since the General Election were published on the department's website at the end of July and can be accessed from the following link: -

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings>

The level of information that is provided is felt to be a proportionate response on the advice of the Cabinet Secretary. We have been unable to fully meet your request as in doing so would exceed the cost limit of £600. Section 12 of the Act (the full text of which

follows at Annex A) does not oblige the department to comply with requests that exceed this limit.

You may also find it helpful to know that meetings for Ministers below Cabinet level for the period 1 January - 31 March 2011 have already been published and information for the period April-July 2011 will be published in due course.

If you are unhappy with the way the department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

xxx

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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

Annex A

Fol section 21: Exemption in full

1. Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.
2. For the purposes of subsection 1:
 - (a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
 - (b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.
3. For the purposes of subsection 1, information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection 2(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

Annex B

Section 12 exemption:

Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,

the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.

Yours sincerely,

xxx