



## CabinetOffice

Propriety and Ethics Team

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Tom Watson (

4 August 2011

FOI request: FOI308425

Thank you for your request of 20 December about payment of Mr Coulson's legal fees. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

The Department holds copies of letters between you and the Cabinet Secretary dated 10 and 13 December respectively. The Department holds no other recorded information. However, I can confirm that Mr Coulson sought advice from the Cabinet Office Propriety and Ethics team who advised that he could accept the payment of legal fees as it related to his former employment. As stated in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to you of 13 December, Mr Coulson's evidence to the trial of Mr Sheridan related wholly to his former employment with News International, and it was therefore appropriate that they should pay his legal bill.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Roger Smethurst  
Head of Knowledge and Information Management  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
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email:

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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



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Yours sincerely



Paul Ballinger



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