



Independent Safeguarding Authority

Sir Roger Singleton

CHAIR

Stephenson House, Morton Palms Business Park,
Alderman Best Way, Darlington DL1 4WB

Mr Richard Thomas
Information Commissioner
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
WILMSLOW
Cheshire SK9 5AF

19 June 2009

Dear Mr Thomas

Thank you for your letter of 12 June 2009 which I found disappointing. I have taken time to confirm my understanding of the position which is as follows.

The ISA has received two items of correspondence from your office. The first dated 19 November was sent to a relatively junior member of the Home Office who (at the time) was on secondment to the ISA.

The letter was followed by an ongoing dialogue between Allison Wellens (the author) and [REDACTED]. I am also aware that Adrian McAllister, our Chief Executive met with Ms Wellens at an early stage of the ISA's development.

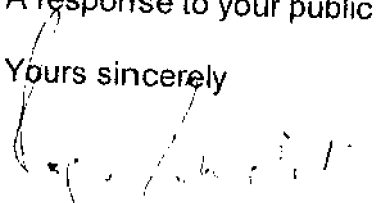
As part of that ongoing dialogue members of your office attended the ISA offices in April of this year. The letter of 19 November was discussed in detail and your staff agreed that all matters were in hand. They also stated that there was no requirement for a written response to the letter given the satisfactory discussions. Again, Mr McAllister spent time with your team.

The second letter, received in the ISA on 28 May 2009, was responded to in full on 11 June 2009. I consider this to have been a reasonable period within which to have replied.

I repeat my disappointment at your approach to an organisation which is also committed to providing proper access to official information and protecting personal information. I believe your comments misrepresent what has taken place over the last eight months and that it was inappropriate to make these at an ACPO conference.

A response to your public comments will be placed on the ISA website.

Yours sincerely


Roger Singleton
Chair