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Mr C W Hardison
HMP Wellingborough LH5330
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Date: 9 July 2010

Dear Mr Hardison

Freedom of Information request (our ref. 6439): ICO case FS50198230

As I understand you are aware, the Home Office sought leave to withdraw its appeal to the First Tier Tribunal in respect of the Decision Notice of 9 March 2010 by the Information Commissioner on our response to your Freedom of Information (Fol) request of 26 March 2007.

The Tribunal has now allowed the appeal to be withdrawn. Accordingly, I enclose the draft consultation paper which was the subject of your original request, including those passages which were previously withheld under section 35(1)(a) of the Fol Act. The following two paragraphs explain the background to the draft paper, most of which you will already know.

As part of his statement on cannabis classification to the House of Commons on 19 January 2006, Charles Clarke, then Home Secretary, made clear his intention to review the current drug classification system under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and announced the future publication of a "consultation paper with suggestions for a review of the drug classification system". On 13 October 2006, Mr Clarke's successor as Home Secretary, John Reid, announced that the then Government would not be proceeding with the review.

The text of the draft consultation paper represented one official's suggestions, undertaken for a former Home Secretary, which have since been discarded. The text was never agreed by Ministers and should therefore not be taken to represent Government policy as it was at the time the draft was compiled in 2006 or subsequently.

I am copying this letter to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Brook
Information Access Team

