


**From:** **Conor Chapple** sparkelectrical.sw@gmail.com   
**Subject:** FOI Request Overdue – Immediate Response Required | Freedom of Information Request – UKAS Senior Staff Retirements and BIS Monitoring (2012-2013)  
**Date:** 15 March 2025 at 00:09  
**To:** Information Rights Unit foi@businessandtrade.gov.uk



Dear DBT FOI Officer,

My FOI request, submitted on 15/02/2025, is now overdue beyond the statutory 20-day deadline, yet I have received no response.

Given that the Grenfell Inquiry provided a response to the same email, while DBT has failed to do so, this delay raises serious concerns about transparency and accountability.

Immediate Action Required:

1. Why has DBT failed to meet its FOIA deadline?
2. When will I receive a full response, including the requested information?

If I do not receive a response within five working days, I will escalate this matter to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).



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Dear DBT FOI Officer,

I am submitting this request under the **Freedom of Information Act 2000** regarding the Department for Business and Trade's (formerly BIS) monitoring of the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (**UKAS**) between **2012 and 2013**, particularly concerning senior staff retirements and leadership reporting.

This request is made due to **serious discrepancies** between:

- **Lorraine Turner's witness statement (approved by UKAS) to the Inquiry,**
- **UKAS Companies House filings,** and
- **PAC meeting records (attended by BIS/DBT representatives).**

These contradictions raise concerns about:

- **Accuracy of leadership reporting,**
- **DBT's obligations under Regulation EC 765/2008,**
- **And potentially misleading information presented to a public inquiry.**

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### 1. Lorraine Turner's Witness Statement – (Approved by UKAS):

Lorraine Turner testified to the Inquiry:

*"In May 2012, following a reorganisation after the retirement of two long-standing UKAS Directors, I was appointed as the Technical and Business Development Director."*

She identified the retired directors as:

- **Alan Hill (retired in 2012) – Finance and Corporate Services Director**
  - **Graham Talbot (retired in 2012) – Technical and External Affairs Director**
  - **Jane Beaumont (retired in 2012) – Accreditation Director**
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## 2. Official Records (Companies House) Directly Contradict This Testimony:

- **Alan Hill:** Retired on **30 June 2012**, replaced by **Georgia Alsop** on **8 October 2012**.
  - **Graham Talbot:** Resigned on **13 July 2012**, not May 2012.
  - **Jane Beaumont:** Resigned on **1 February 2013**, not May 2012.
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## 3. PAC Meeting Records (Attended by BIS/DBT) Further Contradict Turner's Claim:

### July 2012 PAC Meeting:

- **Jane Beaumont** was fully present and contributed to discussions (Items 6.1, 6.2, 6.3).

### November 2012 PAC Meeting:

- **Jane Beaumont** was still present.
- **Paul Stennett** reported **Graham Talbot's departure** as recent—confirming he did **not leave in May 2012**.

### March 2013 PAC Meeting (PAF/05/13):

- **Paul Stennett (UKAS CEO)** announced:

*"Senior staff changes had resulted in a great deal of experience being lost with the retirements of Jane Beaumont and Graham Talbot but he reassured PAF that the new Director and Divisional Director appointments all had long experience of UKAS and accreditation."*

- **The Chair** formally **thanked Jane Beaumont and Graham Talbot for their contributions**, contradicting the claim that Jane left in May 2012.
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## 4. Direct Evidence from BIS Monitoring (March 2013 PAC) Shows DBT Had Knowledge of Staff Changes:

From the **March 2013 PAC Minutes – BIS Monitoring of UKAS (PAF/05/13)**:

**"Mr Mortimer explained that the basis for BIS monitoring of UKAS was set out in the MoU. It was delivered by provision of information, regular meetings with the Chief Executive and monitoring of performance eg of customer complaints. Specific issues discussed were: staff changes..."**

**Mr Mortimer, representing BIS, explicitly lists "staff changes" as a key issue under BIS's MoU monitoring activities.**

Since BIS/DBT monitored **staff changes** at UKAS and attended PAC meetings, **they would have known Jane Beaumont was still active beyond May 2012** and that **Graham Talbot left in July 2012—not May**.

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## Concerns and Possible Regulatory Breaches Under EC 765/2008:

DBT, as the monitoring authority under **Article 9.2 of Regulation EC 765/2008**, was required to monitor UKAS for compliance with Article 8 standards, including:

- **(6) Internal Controls:** Documenting leadership roles accurately.
- **(7) Competent Personnel:** Ensuring proper roles and qualifications are reported.
- **(8) Responsibilities of Personnel:** Documenting the duties and authorities of senior staff.

Failure to identify or address these discrepancies constitutes a potential **breach of EC Regulation 765/2008 and the MoU**.

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## FOI Request:

Under the **Freedom of Information Act 2000**, I request the following:

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### A. Correspondence and Notifications:

1. **All correspondence between DBT (formerly BIS) and UKAS regarding senior staff changes between January 2012 and March 2013.**
  2. **Any formal notifications from UKAS to DBT regarding the retirements or departures of Jane Beaumont, Graham Talbot, or Alan Hill.**
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### B. Monitoring and Reports:

3. **All records from DBT's monitoring of UKAS under Article 9.2 of EC 765/2008, specifically regarding senior staff changes from January 2012 to March 2013.**
  4. **Minutes or notes from DBT's meetings with UKAS (including PAC and PAF meetings) referencing senior staff changes during this period.**
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### C. Internal DBT Analysis and Concerns:

5. Any internal DBT communications discussing or raising concerns about discrepancies between UKAS's reported leadership changes and actual meeting attendances (e.g., regarding Jane Beaumont's continued presence after her reported "retirement" in May 2012).
  6. Any internal DBT reviews, assessments, or inquiries into the accuracy of UKAS leadership reporting following the publication of Lorraine Turner's witness statement to the Inquiry.
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### Why This Matters:

The evidence presented demonstrates:

- A serious discrepancy between official testimony, UKAS filings, and DBT's own monitoring records.
  - DBT was present at meetings where Jane Beaumont's ongoing role was clear—yet allowed false retirement claims to stand in public testimony.
  - This calls into question DBT's compliance with its monitoring duties under EC Regulation 765/2008 and the MoU.
  - It further raises concerns about misleading the public Inquiry, which is a matter of public interest and accountability.
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### Request for Timely Response:

I request a response within **20 working days**, as required by the **Freedom of Information Act 2000**. If this request exceeds cost limits, please **narrow the scope to cover request (A)**.

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### Transparency is Critical:

The gravity of these discrepancies cannot be understated. If DBT failed to address, investigate, or report the false retirement claims presented to a public Inquiry, it represents a failure of regulatory oversight and a breach of public trust.

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**Yours sincerely,**  
Conor Chapple



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**THE DIRECTORS' REPORT *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013**

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Mrs Georgia Alsop was appointed as a director on 8 October 2012

Dr Jane Beaumont retired as a director on 1 February 2013

Mr Graham Talbot resigned as a director on 13 July 2012

Mr Alan Hill resigned as a director on 30 June 2012

**DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

