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TH June 2013

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Ref: 13/524

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: BILDERBERG

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 7th May, which we received on 17th.

You asked–

- *Whether the Chancellor will be attending the (forthcoming) Bilderberg conference*
- *Whether this was in a personal capacity or as a member of the Government, and either way who will be paying his expenses.*
- *Whether he raised the issue of debt-free money.*

I can confirm that the Chancellor was present at the recent Bilderberg meeting.

The Chancellor attends the Bilderberg discussions as a private individual. However, attendance at Bilderberg, as with other international meetings, affords the opportunity to meet other Finance Ministers and senior members of international organisations. For discussions in the periphery of the Bilderberg meeting, on issues of concern to the UK, the Chancellor acts in an official capacity.

As part of their duties, Ministers engage with key international institutions and intergovernmental groupings including the European Union, G7, G20 and the International Monetary Fund. This engagement is important in fostering international cooperation to achieve outcomes that support UK economic interests.

The Chancellor's travel and the cost of incidental expenses are met by the Treasury.

Finally, we do not hold any information in relation to whether the issue of debt-free money was discussed.

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

James Underwood
Information Rights Unit

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/W1, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.