By registered mail to:

Mr Chris HARRIS
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Decision of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 4 of the Implementing Rules to Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001

Subject: Confirmatory application for access to documents under Regulation N° 1049/2001 – Gestdem 2014/6012 and 2014/6042

Dear Mr Harris,

I refer to your letters dated 17 December 2014 (Gestdem 2014/6012) and 19 December 2014 (Gestdem 2014/6042), registered respectively on 19 and 23 December 2014, in which you submit two confirmatory applications for access to documents on the basis of Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (Regulation 1049/2001).

In your initial applications of 12 and 13 December 2014, registered respectively on 12 and 15 December 2014, and addressed to the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid Civil Protection (hereafter: DG Echo) and to the Directorate-General for Banking and Finance (hereafter: DG Fisma, previously DG Markt), you requested access to documents which contain the following information: [...] details of the department's spending on external consultants for each of the last five financial years (2009-2013). You also requested a breakdown by year of which firms this money was spent with.

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Through their initial replies of 16 and 19 December 2014, both above-mentioned Directorates-General (hereafter: DGs) directed you for an answer to your request to the Commission’s Financial Transparency System (FTS), where the requested information is already publicly available.\footnote{http://ec.europa.eu/budget/fts/index_en.htm}

In your confirmatory application, you request a review of this position, stating, among others, that [the solution proposed does not allow [you] to extract the information required – namely spending on external consultants over the last five years. You also mention that the FTS does not allow you to know what payments are external consultancy and what are not.

When assessing a confirmatory application for access to documents submitted pursuant to Regulation 1049/2001, the Secretariat-General conducts an independent review of the reply given by the Directorates-General concerned at the initial stage.

Following this independent review, the Commission would like to bring to your attention replies to two Parliamentary questions (E-001369/2013\footnote{Official Journal C 355 E of 05.12.2013, p. 153.} and P-001899/2014\footnote{Official Journal C 312 of 12.09.2012, p. 223.}) with a similar subject matter and covering the years 2009 to 2013:

- Annex to Parliamentary question E-001369/2013 covering years 2009 to 2011;

These documents cover that part of your request pertaining to the years 2009 – 2013. I am pleased to inform you that full access is granted to the attached documents. Please find a copy annexed.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Day

Enclosures (2):

- Annex to Parliamentary question E-001369/2013 covering the years 2009 to 2011;
- Annex to Parliamentary question P-001899/2014 covering the years 2012 and 2013.