



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

LEGAL SERVICE
The Director General

Brussels, 1st October 2019

Mr Abdul Hai
60 Commercial Road
E1 1LP London
United Kingdom

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BY EMAIL AND REGISTERED MAIL WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

Subject: Request for access to documents

Ref.: Your request of 4 September 2019 registered on 5 September under reference GestDem 2019/5142

Dear Mr Hai,

I refer to your application mentioned above by which you request access to documents under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents¹.

In your request you indicate that “[f]ormer UK Chancellor Philip Hammond has admitted getting legal advice from the EU”. You also put some questions to the Commission in this regard and ask to “[...] publish the legal advice to Mr Hammond”.

In reply to your request, I would first like to inform you that the Commission’s Legal Service has not given any legal advice to Mr Hammond and has not been in contact with him. Secondly, please note that the Commission’s Legal Service only gives in-house legal advice to the Commission and Commission’s services, not to persons outside the institution.

In the light of the above, I confirm that the Commission’s Legal Service does not hold any document that would match the terms of your request and, consequently, it is unable to grant any access.²

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L145, 31.05.2001, page 43).

² Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 states that “*This Regulation shall apply to all documents held by an institution, that is to say, documents drawn up or received by it and in its possession, in all areas of activity of the European Union*”.

Should you contest this position, you should present in writing, within fifteen working days from receipt of this letter, a confirmatory application to the Commission's Secretariat-General to the following address:

European Commission
Secretariat-General
Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (Unit SG.C.1)
BERL 7/076
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luis Romero Requena', with a stylized, cursive script.

Luis ROMERO REQUENA