

IN THE FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL GENERAL REGULATORY CHAMBER INFORMATION RIGHTS

RULING in relation to appeals from

The Information Commissioner's Decision Notices Dated: 24 October 2005 and 25 March 2009

Appellant:	Ismail Abdulhai Bhamjee

Respondent: Information Commissioner

RULING

- 1. Following my ruling of 22 December 2010 Mr Bhamjee has asked that we consider two further appeals in relation to two other decision notices dated 24 October 2005 and 25 March 2009 (the Decision Notices)
- 2. The Tribunal cannot find any paper work relating to these appeals. However I do recall considering these appeals under our previous rules of procedure when we were the Information Tribunal.
- 3. Because of the Vexatious Litigants Order (VLO) against Mr Bhamjee the Tribunal asked him for evidence that this Order had been lifted in order for him to bring appeals before the Tribunal. As far as I recall no such evidence was produced so the appeals were never accepted and that is why I presume the papers were disposed of.
- 4. In any case the appeals are now well out of time. Mr Bhamjee was made aware of this and on 21 January 2011 faxed some papers to us which do not seem to provide any good reasons for allowing the appeals out of time.
- 5. Therefore the Tribunal warned him by email dated 26 January 2011 that I was inclined to strike out the appeals but wished to give him a further opportunity to make representations why the appeals should be accepted.

- 6. On 31 January 2011 and 2 February 2011 Mr Bhamjee faxed further submissions and documents to the Tribunal. It is not clear to me from these documents what Mr Bhamjee is asking to be taken into account. However he submits that one of the administrative staff of the Tribunal emailed him some time ago to say that the appeals had been stayed to give him the opportunity to obtain the consent of the High Court to bring the proceedings. If that is correct then I order that the stay is now lifted.
- 7. Therefore the appeals may have been in time but under the previous Information Tribunal rules of procedure.
- 8. If they were in time then I would refer to paragraph 8 in my ruling of 22 December 2010. Mr Justice Warren's ruling appears to apply to the Decision Notices. He did not lift the Vexatious Litigation Order (VLO) so that Mr Bhamjee could bring proceedings before the Tribunal and there is no evidence that the Order has been lifted since then.
- 9. If the appeals are out of time then Mr Bhamjee has not provided a good reason why the appeals should be accepted. The fact he has not been able to get the High Court to agree to lift the Vexatious Litigation Order to bring these proceedings is not, in my view, a good reason.
- 10.1 therefore strike out the appeals under rule 8 of the Tribunal Procedure (Firsttier Tribunal) (General Regulatory Chamber) Rules 2009 as amended, which I am now applying since the Information Tribunal became part of the First-tier Tribunal in the General Regulatory Chamber, because:
 - a. the appeals are out of time, and/or
 - b. the Tribunal cannot hear the appeals because the VLO has not been lifted to bring them.

Signed

John Angel Principal Judge FTT(IR)

2 February 2011