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case study

Freedom of Information request from the media

the challenge:

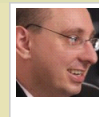
A public authority client received a request for the disclosure of documentation under the Freedom of Information Act from a journalist at a national newspaper. Although the client was able to disclose much of the documentation requested there were concerns over the disclosure of minutes from a board meeting where a sensitive issue was discussed.

our approach:

We advised on the application of two complicated statutory exemptions from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - those relating to the non-disclosure of confidential information and personal information likely to cause the relevant third party data subject damage or distress. We also provided the client with a letter for onward transmission to the journalist setting out the reasons for not disclosing the board meeting minutes.

the result:

Our client was able to respect the confidentiality and data protection rights of third parties whilst avoiding adverse publicity as a result of the partial refusal of the request.



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