

Thomas Glocer

Chief Executive

29 February 2008

Mr James Strachan
Secretary to the 30-year Rule Review
c/o The National Archives
Kew
TW9 4DU

Submitted by email

Dear Mr Strachan,

Re: Review of '30-year rule'

Thank you for your letter of 31 December 2007 and for providing the opportunity to offer comments to the 30 year rule review. The review is certainly a valuable exercise and I will follow developments with great interest.

As you know, Reuters is one of the world's leading providers of news and information globally. Our core strength rests on our ability to provide our clients with accurate and unbiased content in as close to real time as possible. As such, the 30-year rule does not, on the whole, affect our ability to do business, since our news reporting stems, in general, from covering developments as they happen. Our editorial staff rarely make use of the Freedom of Information Act and their work would not be affected by the existing restrictions on the release of government records.

However, Reuters is, in principle, supportive of any moves to improve the transparency of government working, though, naturally, we understand legitimate concerns over national security and other considerations. As the Prime Minister said in a speech in October 2007, we believe it is right to look again at whether government records can be made available within a shorter timeframe than currently exists.

I am, once again, grateful for the opportunity to offer comments and I hope these remarks are helpful to the work of the review panel.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas H. Glocer