



Access Info Europe  
represented by Helen Darbshire

E-mail: [helen@access-info.org](mailto:helen@access-info.org)

Strasbourg, 06/11/2019

Complaint 1995/2019/MIG

**Subject: Admissibility of your complaint**

Dear Ms Darbshire,

On 29 October and 5 November 2019, you submitted a complaint to the European Ombudsman against the European Commission concerning three requests for public access to documents related to business trips of Commissioners and the expenses that Commissioners may incur while on a business trip. I have been assigned responsibility for your case.

As a first step, I can inform you that your complaint is admissible.

Access Info Europe submitted three requests for public access to documents to the Commission in May 2019. The Commission denied access to the requested documents in all three cases. You therefore made confirmatory applications asking the Commission to review its decisions to deny access.

In all three cases, the Commission extended the prescribed time limit for its reply twice, the second time without indicating when the extended time limit would end. Following reminders, which you sent the Commission on 17 and 18 October 2019, the Commission promised that it would provide you with replies shortly. However, to date, you have not received a substantive reply from the Commission to any of your three confirmatory applications.

On the Ombudsman's behalf, I have contacted the Commission to explore the possibility of resolving your complaint swiftly. This is in line with the principle, set out in Regulation 1049/2001, that applications for access to documents should be handled promptly. At this stage, my focus will be on the



documents which you requested and to which the Commission has implicitly denied access.

I will get back to you as soon as I am in a position to update you on the progress of the case.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the case handler, Michaela Gehring, at the following telephone number: +32 2 28 33418 or at [michaela.gehring@ombudsman.europa.eu](mailto:michaela.gehring@ombudsman.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

Fergal Ó Regan  
Head of Inquiries - Unit 2