

22 January 2009

Dear 

At the outset, may I offer my unreserved apologies for the delay in giving you a substantive reply to your letter to DIUS of 17 October for information relating to Phorm.

DIUS do not have policy responsibility for issues relating to the Phorm advertising system. These matters fall to the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).

We have nonetheless made thorough checks of our central records system (ECHO) to ascertain whether we hold information relating to any aspects of your request. As you may know, DIUS was created on 28 June 2007 bringing together functions from two former departments: science and innovation responsibilities from the then Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and skills, further and higher education from the then Department for Education and Skills. These changes in function and the transfer of related records added some complexity to our searches. In addition we approached the Intellectual Property Office and received their assurance that they held no information related to your request. Having taken these steps, in conjunction with BERR, the successor Department of DTI, we have concluded that DIUS do not hold the information you are seeking.

In our contact with BERR, I have been assured by Graham Rowlinson, Head of BERR's Information Rights Unit, that he will write to you offering BERR's advice and assistance as to how BERR might interpret your request placing it in a DTI/BERR context; and this with a view to BERR answering your questions as speedily as possible.

May I apologise again that our checks and searches took longer than anticipated.

Yours faithfully



Kim Worts
Head of Strategic Communications