



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Europe Directorate - External**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

27 March 2015

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0244-15**

Thank you for your email of 02 March 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. The agenda, minutes, attendee list and all meeting papers for the meetings between the German ambassador (and other UK Govt representatives) and Bayer on 1st October 2014 (including all three separate meetings: i.e. the introductory meeting, technical meeting and formal meeting);*
- 2. All communications (letters, emails, phone calls) with Bayer regarding the setting up and follow-up to these meetings.*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information relevant to your request.

The information held by the FCO is in the form of a programme and reporting telegram of Lord Livingston's visit. As this visit was organised by UKTI, the FCO holds no further information.

I attach the relevant information in the form of a digest at Annex A. Some of the information you have requested, is personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

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I hope you are satisfied with this reply. However, if you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the FOI and DPA Team, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room K4.14, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: [foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk](mailto:foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk). You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Europe Directorate - External



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