



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

North Africa and Middle East Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Old Admiralty Building
London SW1A 2PA

31 March 2015

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0249-15

Thank you for your email of 3 March asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please confirm whether the UK Government currently provides training or any other form of assistance to the military, police and/or security services in Bahrain and if so, please supply the details of this assistance including its nature, form and purpose.

Please confirm whether the UK Government has entered into any agreements to provide training in the future to the military, police and/or security services in Bahrain and if so, the details of these agreements

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 information relevant to your request.

In order to support of the Government of Bahrain's reform programme, the UK Government is providing a package of technical assistance, including training to the police and security services in Bahrain. This package includes two projects, centred on sharing best practice in line with international standards on neighbourhood policing and creating awareness of international best practice and providing an introduction to human rights to support recruits who are going to be prison officers. All projects have an accompanying Overseas Security and Justice Assistance (OSJA) instrument in place.

Some of the information within the scope of your request is exempt under Section 26 (1) (b) which allows for the withholding of information if it is likely to prejudice the operational effectiveness of Armed Forces of the Crown or any armed forces with whom they are working. In this case this refers to the arrangements for co-operation and training between the UK Armed Forces and the Government of Bahrain. The decision on whether to invoke this exemption is based on a public interest test. Factors in favour of release are the benefits of increase in public knowledge that releasing the information will have in terms of informing public debate. However, these benefits need to be balanced against the risks that

releasing the information could have on the success of military operations and the security of our troops. In this case it was judged that the potential risks associated with releasing the information outweighed the benefits.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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Yours sincerely,

Gulf Team



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