



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Central America, Caribbean and Mexico Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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12 July 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0515-16

Thank you for your email of 19 May asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked the following:

Please provide copies of all documents and communications held by a) the Mexico desk at the FCO in London and b) British Embassy in Mexico city, relating to Jeremy Corbyn's visit to Mexico in February 2012 in his capacity as chair of the UK-Mexico Parliamentary Friendship Group.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested. Please find attached the information that the FCO can release to you. This comprises two documents: one is a Diplomatic Telegram from the British Embassy in Mexico City, which reports on the visit; the other is a general background briefing document provided to the delegation before the visit.

Some of the information within the scope of your request is exempt under Section 27(1) of the FOIA – international relations. Section 27(1)(a) recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the UK and other states if disclosed. The application of Section 27(1)(a) requires us to consider public interest arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. The disclosure of some of the information held could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and Mexico. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with Mexico, which would not be in the public interest. For these reasons we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Some of the information you have requested is exempt under section 40(2) of the FOIA. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, among other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the FCO is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

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Yours sincerely,

Central America, Caribbean and Mexico Department
Americas Directorate



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