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07 December 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST – REF: 1047-16

Thank you for your email of 9 November requesting access, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), to information which is held by the FCO. You asked for:

*'In September 2016, probably on or around the 21st day of that month, the FCO "borrowed" a number of its files (**the Files**) on India in 1984 from the UK National Archives, such as 'FCO 37/3674, UK policy on defence sales to India'.*

Please provide the following information:

- 1. The file references and names of these Files;*
- 2. To date, how many hours, and at what hourly rate, have been spent examining the Files, since they were "borrowed"?*
- 3. Have any people who were members of the FCO's South Asia Department in 1984 been involved in examining the Files, since they were "borrowed"?*
- 4. Do the Files include any of the 200 or so files that the Heywood Review examined in 2014? If so, which ones? By 'Heywood Review', I refer to the Cabinet Secretary's review into 'Allegations of UK involvement in the Indian operation at Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar 1984'.*

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277292/Cabinet_Secretary_report_to_PM_on_allegations_of_UK_involveme....pdf

In respect of the four parts of your request our response is as follows:

'1. The file references and names of these Files'

We attach a list of the file references and file titles of the 1984 FCO files relating to India which we recently borrowed from The National Archives (TNA).

'2. To date, how many hours, and at what hourly rate, have been spent examining the Files, since they were "borrowed"?'

This information is not held by the FCO. We did not make a record of the amount of time spent examining the files. The files were returned to TNA on 8 November.

'3. Have any people who were members of the FCO's South Asia Department in 1984 been involved in examining the Files, since they were "borrowed"?'

No. The files were reviewed by current members of the FCO's South Asia Department (SAD), none of whom were serving in SAD in 1984.

'4. Do the Files include any of the 200 or so files that the Heywood Review examined in 2014? If so, which ones? By 'Heywood Review', I refer to the Cabinet Secretary's review into 'Allegations of UK involvement in the Indian operation at Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar 1984'.

In connection with this part of your request, we carried out a search for a list of the approximately 200 files which the [Heywood Review report](#) mentions on page 2. We have not identified such a list held by the FCO. You may wish to consider submitting a request for this information to the Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely,

Historical FOI Team



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.