



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Arabian Peninsula Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

21 March 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0103-18

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 01 February 2018 in which you asked:

Please provide all communications between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British embassy in Riyadh discussing the activities of Saudi Arabia's supreme committee to investigate corruption led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Please reduce the scope of my request to the period between the 5th November 2017 and the 27th November 2017

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

The information we are able to release is attached as a digest.

Some of the information the Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds in relation to your request is being withheld under Section 27 (International relations) of the FOIA.

Section 27(1)(a) International relations, applies here because disclosure would be likely to prejudice the relationship between the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. The application of section 27(1)(a) requires us to consider the public interest test arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. We acknowledge that releasing information on this issue would increase public knowledge about our relations with Saudi Arabia. But section 27(1)(a) recognises that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between States. The disclosure of information detailing our relationship with Saudi Arabia could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and Saudi Arabia. This would reduce the UK Government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with Saudi Arabia, 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 the information.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Arabian Peninsula Joint Unit



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.