



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Human Resources Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

16 February 2018

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0064-18**

Thank you for your email of 20 January 2018 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I would be grateful if you could provide me with a list of airlines from which staff (whether full-time, part-time, fixed term or permanent, or any person who is representing the FCO or HMG) are PROHIBITED from travelling on?*

*I would appreciate if you could breakdown the information further as follows:*

- 1) List of banned airlines.
- 2) Reason for each airline being banned (e.g, poor safety standards, reasons of security, etc)
- 3) Whether there is any policy for staff to follow when purchasing tickets and how they are to overcome safety and security concerns?

Following our initial response, you later clarified:

*Are you stating that a global organisation like the FCO does not have a single policy document that applies to all worldwide staff listing such information?*

*If not, then please revise the query to include all FCO who are based in the U.K?*

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.

There is no centrally held FCO list of airlines on which FCO staff based in the UK are prohibited from travelling.

In order to fulfil our Duty of Care to our staff - to take reasonable steps to protect them from reasonably foreseeable harm which might occur as a result of their work – we take a risk-based approach in considering publicly available information. Where there is an operational requirement to travel on an airline which is considered a risk, or known to attract foreseeable risk, Duty of Care is discharged by undertaking a Travel Risk Assessment for clearance by the appropriate risk owner.

The FCO is unable to advise on the safety of individual airlines. However, where staff working at our missions overseas are not permitted to use a particular airline for domestic or regional travel (or advised against doing so unless absolutely necessary) due to safety concerns, this is reflected in our publicly available Travel Advice.

Under section 21 of the FOI Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. Some of the information relevant to your request can be found on the [EU Banned List](#) and at [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

Yours sincerely,

Human Resources Directorate



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.