



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Political Section  
UK Representation to the EU  
Avenue d'Auderghem 10  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium  
Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

18 October 2017

### **Your Freedom of Information Request: 0731-17**

Thank you again for your request for information which we received on 1 August 2017. In your request you said:

*"I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office: 1. A list of the foreign trips made by Simon Case for the purposes of discussing or negotiating the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, clearly stating the purpose of the trip (e.g. Discussion with relevant parties on the impact of UK exit from EU, or, Discussion on Department for Exiting the European Union Policy), where the trip was to, when they were there, and the time spent in each location (if possible, to the hour) since 29 March 2017; 2. The time spent abroad by each of the following people: Tim Barrow; Katrina Williams; as part of their responsibilities either as the UK's permanent representatives to the European Union or as part of the UK's negotiating team for withdrawing the European Union, where they were, when they were there, and the time spent in each location since the 29 March 2017.*

We confirmed in our letter to you of 31 August that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. We have interpreted "foreign" to mean to countries other than the United Kingdom or Belgium, the latter of which is where Sir Tim Barrow, Simon Case, and Katrina Williams are all currently based as part of their roles at the UK Permanent Representation to the EU (UKREP). We have considered within scope travel undertaken up until 1 August (the date we received your original letter).

Simon Case's appointment to UKREP was confirmed in March 2017, and he took up his new position in May 2017. Between starting his role at UKREP and 1 August, Simon travelled to one country other than the UK and Belgium as part of his official duties as Director General for the UK-EU Partnership. This was to Ireland on 11 July for meetings with the Irish Government.

Sir Tim Barrow travelled to the following countries between the end of March and 1 August as part of his official responsibilities as the UK's Permanent Representative to the EU:

- Estonia – 21-22 July, for a COREPER II trip.
- Luxembourg – 20 June, for a meeting of the General Affairs Council.
- Strasbourg – 30 June -1 July, for the European ceremony of honour for Helmut Kohl.
- Luxembourg - 8-9 June, for a meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council.

- Malta – 4-6 May, for a COREPER II trip.
- Strasbourg – 4 April, for meetings with Members of the European Parliament.
- Luxembourg – 3 April, for a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council.

Katrina Williams travelled to the following countries between the end of March and 1 August as part of her official duties as the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU:

- Estonia - 13-15 July, for a COREPER I trip
- Luxembourg – 7-9 June, 14-16 June, 18-19 June, 25-26 June, for meetings of the Council of the European Union
- Strasbourg – 15-16 May, for the European Parliament's May Plenary.
- Malta – 1-4 May, for a COREPER I trip

You will note that I have provided the dates of the trips but not the exact time spent in each location. For this part of the request, I am applying an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000: Section 38(1)(b), on the basis that disclosure of this level of information could endanger the safety of the officials concerned. This requires application of a public interest test. Clearly the current levels of public interest in Government's work on the UK's departure from the EU are high, and the public can expect that senior officials are using their time to the best possible effect to deliver the Government's stated aims and negotiating outcomes. However, Sir Tim Barrow, Katrina Williams and Simon Case are all involved in high profile work that can at times be controversial. There is a risk that providing exact details of the times spent in each location could enable deductions to be made regarding their likely travel patterns for future foreign official trips, thus compromising their physical safety.

Yours sincerely,

Political Section, UKRep



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