



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Communication Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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06 October 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0902-16

Thank you for your email of 13 September 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked a number of questions about the application statistics and procedures for the Chevening scholarship programme in Sri Lanka.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested and that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request with the exception of information on the ethnicity of candidates (your question two refers) which is not collected as part of the applications process in any country where the programme operates. Please find the detailed answers below.

1. The names of persons who were members of the panel of interviewers to interview the short-listed Chevening Scholars for 2016-2017 from Sri Lanka.

The interview panel included the Second Secretary Political (BHC Colombo), the Communications Manager (BHC Colombo), and a member of the Sri Lankan Chevening Alumni.

Some of the information you have requested, is personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

2. The breakdown of the total number of applicants for Chevening 2016-17 from Sri Lanka by ethnicity, gender, place of residence (town/city/district) course and university applied for.

Please see the attached.

3. The breakdown of the total number of short-listed applicants for in interview from Sri Lanka by ethnicity, gender, place of residence (town/city/district), course and university applied for.

Please see the attached.

4. Please provide the breakdown of the total number of selected Chevening Scholars from Sri Lanka by ethnicity, gender, place of residence (town/city/district), course and university applied for.

Please see attached.

Yours sincerely,

Communication 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.