



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Overseas Territories Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

03 October 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0767-16

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 09 August 2016. In your request you asked:

With regards to the Government response to the Foreign Affairs Committee report on the use of Diego Garcia on 12 September 2014 in which the Government claimed "only a small number of immigration cards completed by civilians entering the Territory [of Diego Garcia] have been damaged to the point of no longer being useful" (see <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmcaff/646/64604.htm>):

1. *What dates do these records pertain to?*
2. *Is this information recorded in another fashion?*
3. *What assessment was made regarding the suitability for its purpose of the building in which these records were stored?*
4. *Please provide me with all policies and protocols regarding civilian aircraft and civilian passengers on Diego Garcia from 2003 to 2004.*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does hold information falling within the terms of your request.

On your first and second questions, you may wish to refer to the following Parliamentary Question (PQ):

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140716/text/140716w0001.htm#140716w0001.htm_spnew31. Due to the fact that these immigration cards (completed for civilians passing through immigration) became illegible, it is not possible to provide a more precise date beyond the year (which we know because of the records' location in the archives) or be certain that information about the individuals (e.g. name, date of birth, nationality) is held in other records. As the PQ says, we are confident that information about the flights is held in other records. On your third question, you may wish to refer to the following PQ: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44264/>

On your fourth question, I can advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by this Department.

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Yours sincerely,

BIOT Team

Overseas Territories Directorate



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