05 June 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 00073-14

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

Firstly, please may you provide a detailed list of the: costs; locations; rationales; and measurable outcomes of all FCO, British Council, and British Embassy in Pyongyang funded projects that have been conducted in the DPRK since the 1st January 2011.

Secondly, could you state whether (and if so, which) of the abovementioned projects were developed to explicitly accord with the FCO priority for the DPRK of Supporting Human Rights Work.

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. The attached table covers projects from the start of the 2011 – 12 financial year on 5 April 2011 until the end of September 2013. Please note that for projects in the 2013-2014 financial year we can only give spend so far, and outcomes may be predicted rather than definite. Although not strictly covered by your request, we have also included two projects conducted in the Republic of Korea which were directly aimed at supporting DPRK human rights work. All projects are FCO funded except where indicated.

We also hold information on projects conducted between 1 January 2011 and 4 April 2011. However, FCO projects are run on a financial year basis rather than a calendar year, and separating out information from the final quarter of the 2010-11 financial year (January – March 2011) would take the total time required to locate, retrieve and extract the information you have requested to more than 3 ½ working days. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information

where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. In this case, rather than refuse your request in its entirety, we have adjusted the time period to keep costs within the appropriate limit.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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I hope you are satisfied with this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Korean Peninsula Team
Pacific Department