



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

EU Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

4 May 2017

Your Freedom Of Information Request: 0355-17

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 10 April.

You requested:

Annual Reports (Reviews) from the British Embassy in Latvia for the years 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested. I can confirm we hold the Annual Reports for 1991 (titled "First Impressions of Latvia and Chronology for 1991") and 1996 and have released these to you with some redactions. For 1992, no Annual Report was filed but we have released to you a comparable "Farewell to Latvia" dispatch. No Annual Reports for 1993, 1994 and 1995 are available.

I attach copies of the information that the FCO is releasing to you. We have made some small redactions.

Section 27(1)(a) of the FOIA recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and other states if it was disclosed. In this case, we judge that some of the information in these documents could harm the UK's relationship with Latvia. Despite the age of the information, this remains.

The application of s.27(1)(a) requires us to consider the public interest test arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. We acknowledge that releasing information on this issue would increase public knowledge about our relations with Latvia. However, s.27 (1) (a) recognises that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the United Kingdom does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be hampered, which will not be in the public interest. The disclosure of information detailing our relationship with the Latvian Government could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and Latvia. This would reduce the UK

government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with Latvia, which would not be in the public interest. For these reasons we consider that, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Yours sincerely,

Europe 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.