



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Pacific Department**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

15 August 2017

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0703-17**

Thank you for your email of 24 July asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*Please provide a copy of all correspondence and documentation which mentions Nissan and/or Toyota in relation to Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson's visit to Japan in July 2017.*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information falling within the terms of your request.

Attached is a digest of information with references to Nissan and Toyota. This information has been taken from correspondence between officials and briefings provided for the Foreign Secretary. There is an error in the last entry - *Briefing for Breakfast hosted by the British Chamber of Commerce and the British Market Council, Friday 21 July*. In the Speaking Notes it states that Japan's individual investments in the UK were over 2,200 in the last year. The actual figure is 115 and not 2,200. No specific meetings took place between the Foreign Secretary and Nissan and Toyota representatives. Therefore there is no other subsequent correspondence in relation to the Foreign Secretary's visit.

Some information is being withheld under the following exemptions of the FOI Act:

- Section 27 - International Relations
- Section 29 - The Economy
- Section 40 - Personal Information

**Section 27 - International Relations**

Section 27(1)(c) is a qualified exemption and as such we have considered where the greater public interest lies. Disclosure could meet the public interest in transparency and accountability. However, the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the UK 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. In this case, information from officials on our relationship with Japan and regarding future visits could potentially

damage the bilateral relationship. This could reduce the UK Government's ability to protect and promote UK interests 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 disclosure.

### **Section 29 - The Economy**

Section 29 (1)(a) allows for information to be exempt if its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the economic interests of the UK. This exemption requires the application of a public interest test. Public interest recognises that the Government, Nissan and Toyota must be able to hold discussions in freedom and confidence. It would prejudice the UK's economic interests and competitiveness if these discussions were disclosed.

### **Section 40 - Personal Information**

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.

You can find responses to other FOI requests on the FCO's [website](#).

Yours sincerely,

Pacific Department.



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.