



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

20 July 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0592 - 15

Thank you for your email of 19 May asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked for:

“1) Copies of any and all correspondence between ministers, their advisors and senior officials at the FCO and the IFC Forum (International Financial Centres Forum). Please limit your search for relevant material to 1/1/2013 onwards.

2) Copies of any and all minutes of meetings between ministers, their advisors and senior officials at the FCO and the IFC Forum. Please limit your search for relevant material to 1/1/2013 onwards.”

You subsequently amended your request in your e-mails of 17 and 22 June for part 1) *that is limited to ministers and their advisors (not senior officials) and “for material concerning registers of beneficial ownership.”*

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.

Please find attached the information that the FCO can release to you. For ease I have also listed these below:

- a) Interview with Mr Mark Simmonds MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Spring 2014 Edition of the IFC Economic Report;
- b) Letter dated 1 June 2015 from Mr Steven Meiklejohn, Chairman of the IFC Forum to Mr James Duddridge MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State;

- c) Letter dated 23 June 2015 from Mr James Duddridge MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to Mr Steven Meiklejohn, Chairman of the IFC Forum.

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.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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Yours sincerely,

Overseas Territories Directorate

