



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Western Balkans and Enlargement Team
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

19 April 2016

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0380-16

Thank you for your email of 05 April 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“I note that the Government has previously published an impact assessment on the accession of Croatia to the European Union

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/accession-of-croatia-to-the-eu>

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with a full copy of any reports, memos, documents or impact assessments that have been drawn up regarding the accession of Albania or Turkey to the European Union.

I asked the Home Office first but they said it would be your department.”

You subsequently narrowed the request to cover information written in the last three years.

I can confirm that the FCO does hold information relevant to your request.

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. Your request as presently formulated is widely-framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request. You may therefore wish to refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit. If the information in the links below does not cover what you seek, you might want to submit an FOI request for information regarding a specific aspect of Albania or Turkey's accession process, looking at a much narrower time frame.

Further information on the government's position on enlargement (including Albania and Turkey) can be found in our explanatory memorandums to the EU Select Committees from 2013 to 2015. These are available at the Cabinet Office website at: -

<http://europeanmemoranda.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/memorandum/communication-from-the-commission-to-the-european-parliament-the-council-on-the-enlargement-strategy-main-1387097848>

<http://europeanmemoranda.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/memorandum/commission-staff-working-document-albania-2014-progress-report-accompanying-the-document-communication-from-the-commission>

<http://europeanmemoranda.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/memorandum/commission-staff-working-document-turkey-2014-progress-report-accompanying-the-document-communication-from-the-commission>

<http://europeanmemoranda.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/memorandum/communication-from-the-commission-to-the-european-parliament-the-council-the-european-economic-social-committee-1447342758>

The Minister for Europe also addressed the House on 09 March regarding the EU Turkey agreement:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160309/debtext/160309-0001.htm>

Yours sincerely,

Western Balkans and Enlargement Team

Europe Directorate



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