



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

24 March 2016

South Asia Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0109-16**

Thank you for your email of 27 January asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*“My request relates to a development in the Maldives, called the Global Green City. It has been a project to reclaim an island called Gulhi Falhu and convert it into an habitable area for economic development. The firm behind the development is called Global Projects Development Company (Pvt) Ltd (GPD). I have attached here the project's website for your convenience - <http://www.globalgreencity.net/about-us>.*

*Under the act, I would like to request complete copies of all and any Foreign Office cables written by the British High Commission for the Maldives that contain reporting about the Global Green City project between July 1 2012 and July 1 2015.*

*Under the act, I would like to request complete copies of all and any Foreign Office cables that were received by the British High Commission for the Maldives that contain reporting about the Global Green City project between July 1 2012 and July 1 2015”.*

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.

Information has been withheld using section 27 (1) – international relations. The section provides for information to be exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to (a) prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and any other State or (b) the interests of the United Kingdom abroad. If this information were to be released the Maldives government would be more guarded and less co-operative in their dealings with the UK. It is for this reason that we consider that the public interest in applying an exemption under section 27(1) outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the 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 section 40 (2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, 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 section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure and there is no public interest test to apply.

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Yours sincerely,

South Asia Department



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