



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0252-16

Thank you for your email of 23 February asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

For this reason I would like to make the same request concerning the APPI concluded by the United Kingdom with Cuba in 1995.

As we requested in that other opportunity we would like to ask you for the following documents concerning the APPI mentioned before:

- *Preparatory works*
- *Foreign Affairs Committee reports*
- *Any parliamentary debate*
- *Any other information related to the treaty*

You later confirmed that you were interested in documents dated between 1991 and 1995.

I am now writing to inform you of the outcome of our review of information held by the FCO that relates to your request. Please find attached a digest of documents. We have extracted this information from a larger document, most of which was out of scope of your request and has been collated into a digest which would be easier to read. Further information that we can release to you will be sent as paper copies to the address you supplied, as you requested.

Some of the information within the scope of your request is exempt under Section 27(1) of the FOIA – international relations. Section 27(1)(a) recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the UK and other states if disclosed. The application of Section 27(1)(a) requires us to consider public interest arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. The disclosure of some of the information held could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and Cuba. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with Cuba, 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.

Some of the information you have requested is exempt under section 40(2) of the FOIA. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, among other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle,

which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the FCO is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

One of the documents we found during our document search is accessible by other means, and is therefore exempt information under Section 21 of the FOIA. The document is a Hansard record of a question asked on IPPAs in the House of Lords
<http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/lords/1994/jun/27/investment-protection-promotion>.

Some of the information refers to documents which were either not found during our search or are exempt from release. In these cases, the references to those documents have been redacted.

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,

Caribbean, Central America and Mexico Department



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