



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Americas Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

29 August 2017

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0721-17**

Thank you for your emails of 28 and 31 July asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. On 31 July we emailed you to say we interpreted parts one and two of your request to be as follows:

Part One

*Part 1: [D]etails of all correspondence (by telephone, email, letter or any other method of communication) and minutes of all meetings between Baroness Anelay and the El Salvador Government during her 2016 visit to El Salvador (the week beginning December 12)*

Part Two

*Part 2: [A]sk for details of all correspondence between Baroness Anelay (and anyone else representing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Amnesty International with regard to El Salvador and abortion in the period July 2016-July 2017.*

You responded as follows:

*Part 1: Yes, the subject is abortion, but may this pertain to anything related to abortion (i.e. family planning).*

*Part 2: I would like you to provide all correspondence, only related to abortion/abortion law in El Salvador, between Amnesty International and any representative from the FCO for the time period stipulated.*

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.

We have extracted information in scope of your request and collated it into a digest and provided relevant documents.

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 El Salvador. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with El Salvador, 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.

Yours sincerely,

Caribbean, Central America and Mexico 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.