



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Arabian Peninsula & Iran Department**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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28 July 2017

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0471-17**

Thank you for your email dated 12 May asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked for:

*'...a breakdown of any and all UK aid to the Sultanate of Oman since 2014, which should include the value, date awarded and project description.*

*I expect your disclosure to include, but not be limited to, the visit of Oman's Inspector General Hassan Al Shereqi to Northern Ireland, which was reported around March 2015.*

*Please also respond to the following points:*

*How much money has NI-CO received for its work with Oman and which fund did this money come from?*

*How much is the Police and Security Attache at the UK Embassy in Muscat paid per year?*

*How many meetings has the Police and Security Attache at the UK Embassy in Muscat had with Omani police since 2014?'*

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.

In answer to your questions. The Sultanate of Oman does not receive any Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the United Kingdom and is not on the list of aid countries. As such we do not possess any ODA aid data for Oman.

There are two NI-CO projects currently taking place in Oman, funding for Command & Control and Youth Justice Projects have come from the UK FCO CSSF. The overall value of NI-CO projects in Oman since March 2014 to end of March 2017 is worth approximately £900k.

The information you have requested on the pay of the Police and Security Attaché at the UK Embassy in Muscat is personal data relating to a third party, 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.

The Police and Security Attaché has held 27 meetings or significant engagements (conferences, visits, exhibitions) with the Royal Oman Police since 2014.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, the exemption under Section 27 – international relations was closely looked at, in respect of information requested however I am pleased to say that no information has been withheld under this exemption.

Yours sincerely,

Arabian Peninsula & Iran 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.