



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Caribbean, Central America and Mexico  
Department**

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

12 January 2018

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0976-17**

Thank you for your email of 17 October 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I am requesting copies of the despatches written by High Commissioners/Ambassadors/Governors to the Foreign Secretary/Foreign Office reporting back on the success of State/Commonwealth visits by HM The Queen between 1994 and 1996.*

*In the case of the 1995 CHOGM, I would expect that the British High Commissioner in New Zealand would have written one report on the royal visit (even though it is a realm, it seems usual for a report to go back to the FCO) and one on the CHOGM itself.*

**COMMONWEALTH VISITS BY HM THE QUEEN**

*19 February 1994* *Dominica*

*19–22 February 1994* *Guyana*

*22–24 February 1994* *Belize*

*1–3 March 1994* *Jamaica*

*6–8 March 1994* *Bahamas*

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.

Please find attached the information that the FCO can release to you.

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

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

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.