



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

European Directorate -Internal
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

25 July 2014

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0658 - 14

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2014, asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

If Scotland votes yes in the referendum on 18 September 2014, the ruling Scottish National Party has promised to expel the Trident nuclear weapons system from the British naval bases at Faslane and Coulport on the Clyde, and to no longer host the four Vanguard-class nuclear submarines that carry Trident missiles. Please can the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provide copies of any correspondence, memos, reports or other unpublished information relating to any discussions, either internally or with other parties, since 1 January 2013 on plans for the Trident nuclear weapons system in the event of a yes vote in the Scottish referendum.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds no information relating to your request.

Both the UK Government and the Scottish Government have said that there can be no 'pre-negotiations' on what the terms of independence might be before the referendum takes place. The UK Government has been very clear about the reasons for this. It acts in the interests of all the people of the UK, including people in Scotland. Unless people in Scotland decide that they no longer want to be part of the United Kingdom, the UK Government will not take any action that requires it to exclude Scotland and act only in the interests of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The question of how Trident would be affected by Scottish independence

cannot be answered now because it would depend on negotiations that could only take place if people in Scotland vote to leave the UK in September's referendum.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to read the following report on the issue of Scottish independence and the potential impacts on defence, including the UK's nuclear deterrent, presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Defence:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scotland-analysis-defence>

The House of Commons Defence Committee and Scottish Affairs Committee have both held inquiries related to the Scottish Referendum. The Committee reports and Government's responses are available here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/scotland-the-referendum-and-independence/defence/>



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