



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Human Resources Directorate

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Email:

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## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0983-14**

Thank you for your email of 24 October asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*Please provide the number of complaints the Department has received relating to the behaviour or conduct of Special Advisers in the last 12 months.*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

Under 40(5) of the FOI Act we neither confirm nor deny whether any information relevant to your request is held, because to do so 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. Section 40 is an absolute exemption which is not subject to a public interest test.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

Yours sincerely  
Business Management and Programmes Team