



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Information Management Dept
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31 January 2014

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST – REF: 0104-14

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 January to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), requesting access, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), for a copy of the report written by Sir Nicholas Walker Browne "British Policy on Iran 1974-1978", dated 1979.

You have also requested from the FCO "any notes, comments or teaching materials associated with this document that represent or summarize the FCO's thinking since 1979 on improvements or caveats for applying the recommendations and lessons learnt therein."

Sir Nicholas Browne's report is available to download online, having been published by the FCO in December 2010. The link to the report is:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20101222151801/http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/who-we-are/our-history/historical-publications/documents-british-policy/british-policy-on-iran-1974-1978>

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit.

The FCO is unable to comply with the remainder of your request as it is presently formulated, as this would exceed the appropriate limit, as specified in regulations, of £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the FCO holds the information, and locating, extracting and retrieving the information.

At present your request will mean searching our records for information from 1979 (the date of the report) until the present day. For me to provide you with a response, you will need to refine the second part of your request e.g. to a narrower date range, possibly one to two

years. Although after refining request, I cannot guarantee that this will sufficiently narrow the scope of the search to enable me to provide you with an answer, or that we will in fact hold any relevant information.

The FCO is required under the UK Public Records Act to transfer files selected for permanent preservation to The National Archives (TNA) at the 30-year mark. Under the provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, this will reduce progressively to 20 years by 2022. The online catalogue on the TNA website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk shows what documents the FCO has already transferred.

The file series that you might want to explore on the TNA catalogue are:

Reference	Title
FO 997	Foreign Office: Legation, Tehran, Iran: Miscellanea Foreign Office, British Middle East Office, and Department of Technical Co-operation, Middle East Development Division:
FO 957	Registered Files
FO 460	Foreign Office: Consulate, Mohammerah (later Khorramshahr), Iran (formerly Persia): General Correspondence
FO 451	Foreign Office: Consulate, Tabriz, Persia: Miscellanea
FO 450	Foreign Office: Consulate, Tabriz, Persia: Letter Books
FO 449	Foreign Office: Consulate, Tabriz, Persia: General Correspondence
FO 416	Foreign Office: Confidential Print Persia (Iran)
FO 251	Foreign Office: Consulates and Legation, Iran (formery Persia): Miscellanea
FO 248	Foreign Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Embassy and Consulates, Iran (formerly Persia): General Correspondence
FCO 143	UK in Iran Website
FCO 17	Foreign Office, Eastern Department and successors: Registered Files (E and NE Series) Foreign Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Arabian Department and Middle East Department: Registered Files (B and NB Series)
FCO 8	

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me, quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

If you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the FOI and DPA Team at Room K4.10-13, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH, or by e-mail to foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk. Please note that you have 40 working days from the date of this letter in which to submit a request for an internal review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have 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,

Information Management 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.