



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

ASEAN Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: www.gov.uk

22 December 2014

Dear

Your Freedom Of Information Request: 0919-14

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 28 September 2014. In your request you asked for:

Under the Freedom of Information Act and within the date range 2010 to 28 September 2014:

I am seeking current information and analysis (2010 to present) regarding the independence movements in West Papua or Western New Guinea including but not limited to organizations such as the:

Free West Papua Campaign

West Papua National Coalition for Liberation West Papua Liberation Organization -

Organisasi Pembebasan Papua Barat (OPPB) West Papua National Liberation Army Free Papua Movement (OPM) - Organisesi Papua Merdeka (Ref: 0919-14)

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information falling within the terms of your request.

I attach a document that details this in the form of a digest of information. As you are aware from our previous correspondence, some information falls under the following exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and has, therefore, been withheld:

Section 27 (1) (a) (b) (c) and (d) - International Relations

Section 27 (1) (a) (b) (c) and (d) provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the relations between the UK and any other state or international organisation, the interests of the UK abroad, or the promotion or protection by the UK of its interests abroad.

In applying section 27 we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing it.

The factors in favour of disclosure include the strong public interest in government transparency and accountability. Such disclosure would also increase public knowledge of relations between the UK and Indonesia as well as Indonesia more widely.

The factors against disclosure include the strong public interest in ensuring that the FCO are able to conduct the UK's international relations effectively and protect UK interests abroad. Effective conduct of the UK's international relations depends upon maintaining the trust and confidence of other governments and international organisations and to do this there must be good working relationships with other governments and international organisations based on confidence and trust. This relationship of trust allows for the free and frank exchange of information on the understanding that it will be treated in confidence. If the UK does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to act as a significant player in the international arena, and protect and promote UK interests through international relations, will be hampered. Equally, other governments and other international organisations may be more reluctant to share information with the UK Government in future, and may be less likely to respect the confidentiality of information supplied by the UK Government to them, to the detriment of UK interests.

Therefore, in analysing the information held we assessed that some of it would prejudice our ability to engage with the Indonesian authorities effectively on Papua specifically and the wider bilateral portfolio in general.

Section 38 (1) (a) (b) – Health and Safety

Section 38 (1) (a) (b) provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health of any individual or endanger the safety of any individual.

In applying section 38 we have again had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing it.

Those factors in favour of disclosure centre on the public interest in transparent and open government in general as well as the openness of the FCO's dealings with a range of organisations and individuals on Indonesia specifically.

However, this is balanced against the risk to the personal safety of those individuals and organisations whose exposure in such a context would place them at a greater risk of harm than would otherwise be the case.

Therefore, in analysing the information held we assessed that some of it would likely endanger individuals to a sufficient degree that disclosure was not a viable option.

It is for these reasons, outlined above, that we consider that the public interest in maintaining both exemptions and withholding this information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, 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.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCO will have been produced by government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives website.

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I hope you are satisfied with this reply. However, if you wish to make a complaint or would like a review of our decision, please write to the FOI and DPA Team, Knowledge Management Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room K4.14, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to request a review from the date of this letter.

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.

Please do contact me if you have any queries about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

ASEAN Department



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