



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Arabian Peninsula Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

14 August 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0481-15

Thank you for your email of 21 May 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

'May I request annual reports (should they exist) from the defence attaché from 1996 to 2014?'

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 we can release to you.

Some information within the scope of your request has been withheld under Section 27(1)(a) and (c). These exemptions recognise that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. The disclosure of information setting out the FCO's internal views about defence issues could potentially damage the defence relationship between the UK and Qatar. If the United Kingdom does not maintain the trust and confidence placed in it by Qatar, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be hampered. For these reasons we consider that, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

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Yours sincerely,

Arabian Peninsula Department



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