



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0685-16 Digest**

*\* Please provide the details of all overseas trips made by Alan Duncan while Special Envoy to Yemen (up to today's date) By details, I mean the dates of the trips, the destination, purpose and cost.*

*\* For each trip, please disclose the dates of all meetings, with whom Mr Duncan met, the duration and the reasons for the meeting.*

*\* Please provide the details of all overseas trips made by Alan Duncan while Special Envoy to Oman (up to today's date). By details, I mean the dates of the trips, the destination, purpose and cost.*

*\* For each trip, please disclose the dates of all meetings, with whom Mr Duncan met, the duration and the reasons for the meeting.*

Below provides details to accompany the FOI reply:

### 9 –14 September 2014 – Visited Oman.

The aim of the visit was to exchange views on Yemen and visit Duqm.

During this visit, Sir Alan was received by The Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs (Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah), Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi), Minister of the Royal Office (Lt Gen Sultan bin Mohammed Al Numani), and the Health Minister (Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi). He also visited Duqm, Oman's port and Special Economic Zone, and met British business country CEOs from HSBC, Shell, BP, BAES and Atkins at a dinner.

### 15-16 September 2014 – Visited Yemen.

The purpose of the visit was to urge progress on the political track and on economic reform ahead of the Friends of Yemen meeting in New York on 24 September.

Sir Alan met President Hadi, both deputy Prime Ministers, Abdullah Mohsen Al Akwa and Dr Ahmed Ubaid Ben Daghr and eight other ministers: Jamal Abdullah al-Sallal of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Al-Saadi of Planning, Maj Gen Mohammed Nasser Ahmed of Defence, Maj Gen Abdo Hussein Attarib of Interior, Murshid Al-Arashani of Justice, Hussein Al-Rasheed Jamal Al-Kaf of Oil, Mohammed Mansour Zeman of Finance, and Abdullah Mohsen Al Akwa also Electricity Minister. He met prominent members of the General People's Congress Dr Abu Bakr al Qirbi, Yahya Ali Raei and Dr Ahmed Bin Daghr. He also met and discussed the

issues of the peace process and economic reform with P5 Ambassadors (UK, US, France, Russia and China) and UN Special Adviser on Yemen Jamal Benomar.

Cost of trip 9-16 September 2014, £3113.87

3– 8 December 2014 – Visited Oman.

The aim of the visit was to promote continued UK bilateral relations with Oman.

Sir Alan called on Lt. Gen. Sultan Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office, Yusuf bin Alawi, Foreign Minister and Omar al-Zawawi, Adviser to The Sultan, as well as the Ministry of Oil and Gas, and the Ministry of Health. Sir Alan also met senior British businessmen active in Oman and the Omani and UK Heads of the Omani British Friendship Association (OBFA, bilateral trade and investment promotion body), the President of the Central Bank of Oman and CEO of State General Reserve Fund. He also met with Yahya Nasib, former chair of the Oman British Friendship Association.

Cost of trip £2022.13

16-21 September 2015- Visit to the Gulf region.

Your request overlaps with a previous FOI reply, details of which are already in the public domain:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-release-sir-alan-duncan-yemen-envoy>

For ease, relevant extracts are below:

16-17 September 2015 – Sir Alan visited Saudi Arabia. He made calls on G18 Ambassadors, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, Yemeni President Hadi, Members of Saudi Arabia Defence and Security Staff, UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed and Head of the King Salman Centre for Humanitarian Affairs, Dr Abdallah Al Rabeeah.

18-20 September 2015 – Sir Alan visited Oman, Muscat. He met with the Head of the Royal Office, General Sultan Nu'mani and Foreign Minister, Yusuf bin Alawi. He also saw Deputy Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr and former Yemeni Foreign Minister, Abu Bakr al-Qirbi.

21 September 2015 – Sir Alan visited UAE. He held meetings with the Minister for International Cooperation and Development, HE Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, the National Security Council and Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Anwar Gargash.

The rationale for the trip 16-21 September 2015 is already in the public domain:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/political-solution-the-best-way-for-peace-in-yemen-says-uk-special-envoy>. Sir Alan's following trips to the region were also made with the aim of showing the UK's continued support for a political solution to the crisis in Yemen.

The cost of the above trip 16-21 September 2015 was £3702.02

The details of those Sir Alan met in the trips listed below are also already in the public domain in the FOI response listed above. Relevant extracts are below:

6 April 2016 – Visited Saudi Arabia.

The purpose of the visit was to urge compliance with the cessation of hostilities and constructive engagement ahead of the resumption of UN-facilitated peace talks.

Sir Alan had meetings with Yemeni Vice President Ali Mohsen, Yemeni President Hadi, Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdulmalik Al-Mekhlafi and various members of the Yemeni Cabinet. He met with members of the House of Saud; King Salman, Crown Prince and Deputy Crown Prince and also met Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir.

Sir Alan Duncan added an extra day to a pre-planned trip to the region with the Conservative Middle East Council, to allow him to make calls in his capacity as Yemen Envoy. Flights were not paid for by the FCO so we do not hold this information.

16-17 May 2016 – Visited Saudi Arabia.

The purpose of the visit was to consult with key Yemeni actors in Riyadh as the UN-facilitated peace talks continued in Kuwait. The peace process, humanitarian and economic situation were raised.

Sir Alan met with GCC Secretary General Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Yemeni President Hadi, Yemeni Vice President Ali Mohsen, Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed Bin Dagher and Secretary General for the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Iyad Madani. He also met Saudi Defence and Security staff and shown the Evacuation and Humanitarian Operations Centre. Further Sir Alan gave a televised interview with Al Arabiya.

18 May 2016 – Visited Abu Dhabi.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss the Yemen peace process, humanitarian and economic situation.

Sir Alan met with UK and US Ambassadors and also gave an interview to Sky News Arabia.

Cost of trip 16-18 May 2016, £2729.78