



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0526-16

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

A list of all meetings held by Alan Duncan in his employment as Yemen envoy, from March 2015 to the present.

How many staff members does Mr Duncan have to support him in this role?

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.

Sir Alan Duncan, in his role as the Government's Special Envoy to Yemen, has met Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials on a weekly basis in the FCO, and relevant UK Ambassadors when they are in London. Sir Alan also has periodic discussions with the Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and the Minister for the Middle East, Tobias Elwood. Given that a significant proportion of these discussions take place in the House, in the margins of other parliamentary business (eg when attending debates on Yemen or the Gulf) etc, a comprehensive record of them is not kept on FCO systems. In addition to the meeting which took place in September 2015 in the digest, Sir Alan is in regular telephone contact with the UN Special Envoy, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

The Special Envoy to Yemen met with Amer Daoudi, UN Regional Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Yemen on 23 July 2015. On 8 September 2015 met with NGOs (Kate Nevens, Head of MENA Programme of Saferworld, Maya Mailer, Head of Humanitarian Campaigning of Oxfam, Fionna Smyth, Head of Campaigns of Amnesty International and Nick Martlew, UK Director of Crisis Action) and a meeting with International President MSF, Director Dr Joanna Liu on 12 October 2015.

Since March 2015 Sir Alan has made three visits to the Gulf, primarily to Saudi Arabia where the Yemen government is now mainly based. In his role he has met President Hadi, the then Vice President Khaled Bahah, new Vice President Ali Moshen Al-Ahmar, Prime Minister Ahmed bin Daghr, Foreign Minister Abdulmalik Al-Mekhlafi and other Yemeni Ministers.

In Saudi Arabia he has also met the King, Crown Prince, Deputy Crown Prince, Foreign Minister and members of the defence and security staff and also met US, UK and Saudi Ambassadors to Yemen. In Abu Dhabi he has met the Deputy Foreign Minister and in Oman he has met the Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister. See attached digest of visits to the Gulf.

There are no staff members engaged exclusively in support of the Yemen Envoy and he draws as required upon the Yemen Desk Officers in the FCO and other officials such as The Yemen Office in Saudi Arabia. The position of Yemen Envoy is unremunerated.

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Yours sincerely,

Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department



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