



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**North America Department**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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London SW1A 2PA

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

17 September 2015

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0675-15**

Thank you for your email of 7 July 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and we apologise for the long delay in our response. You asked:

*I should be grateful if you could provide me with all the information held by the FCO, including communications to and from your ministerial department, on the subject of [Redacted] earlier FOI requests (links listed below) and of the manner they should be dealt with.*

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/us\\_interference\\_with\\_legal\\_proce#outgoing-449036](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/us_interference_with_legal_proce#outgoing-449036)

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/data\\_regarding\\_requests\\_from\\_the#incoming-666133](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/data_regarding_requests_from_the#incoming-666133)

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 the FCO can release to you.

Some of the withheld information is personal data relating to third parties. It is our view that disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act therefore apply. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which we think would be breached by disclosure in this case. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. We do not therefore have to apply the public interest test.

We have also redacted information not relevant to your request.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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Yours Sincerely

**North America Department**



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