



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

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

21 July 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0538-16

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

- 1. Details of any meetings or communications between the Department and the company G4S (or any G4S group company), in the period 1st November 2015 to the present, relating to G4S group's businesses in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories*
- 2. Details of any communications between FCO and the Israeli Embassy in London or the UK Embassy in Israel, relating to the same matter during the same period.*

I confirm that we have completed the search for the information you requested.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. We are withholding some information under Section 40 – Personal information and Section 41 – Information provided in confidence

Some of the information you have requested is personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which in our view would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

Some of the information you requested is exempt under section 41 of the Act, as disclosure would be a breach of confidence. The successful working of British diplomacy depends upon sources being able to provide information in confidence without fear that this will be made public. Exemptions under Section 41 do not require the application of a public interest test.

Please find attached the information that can be released.

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 in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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Yours sincerely,

Near East Department



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