



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0483-16**

Thank you for your email of 10 May 2016, clarifying an earlier request asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000, or latest enacted), I would like to request information specifically relating to the report *The UK's Relations with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain* (<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmfaff/88/88.pdf>) by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee.*

*Specifically, I would like information regarding recommendations on page 8 of the report (emphasis mine):*

*Saudi Arabia is an important buyer for the UK defence industry, and defence sales are important to the overall UK-Saudi relationship. The UK provides valued training alongside its defence sales that is beneficial to both UK and Saudi forces. With other competitors in the market, there is little to suggest that ending the UK's defence sales would have any effect on overall defence sales to Saudi Arabia, or that it would give the UK additional leverage to effect positive improvements. The government must adhere strictly to its existing policy to ensure that defence equipment sold by UK firms are not used for human rights abuses or internal repression. In its response to this report the Government should provide further evidence that it is doing so in practice, including any evidence gathered by end-use monitoring.*

*I would like information on the evidence – or evidence-gathering initiatives – that the Government has done – or is doing – into the use of UK-sold defence equipment. In particular, please could you supply (via email, if possible):*

*\* The names of any initiatives (programmes, committees, reports) which have sought further evidence, based upon the report*

*\* The findings of these initiatives – or links to such published findings*

*\* Reference to any decisions made to gather such evidence, or any decisions made not to gather evidence into the use of UK-sold defence equipment in the context of human rights*

*\* Information on the copyright of such information, specifically in the context of publishing these data*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does hold some information relevant to your request. However, under Section 21 of the FOI Act 2000, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. Relevant information to your request can be found via the following UK Parliamentary links:

- The Government's response to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee 2013-14 is available on the Parliament website - [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/282518/8780.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/282518/8780.pdf).
- International Development Committee (IDC) undertook an inquiry into the "Crisis in Yemen". Evidence and their report findings have been published on <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/crisis-in-yemen/>.
- Committees on Arms Export Controls (CAEC) are undertaking an inquiry into "use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen". Written and oral evidence from the Government is published on <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/other-committees/committee-on-arms-export-controls/inquiries/parliament-2015/uk-arms-yemen-15-16/>.
- Previous CAEC inquiries including Government response is published at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/other-committees/committee-on-arms-export-controls/inquiries/?y=2010&mode=0>
- PQ answers on this subject are available to view at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/>.

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) is the licensing authority for strategic arms exports from the UK. The FCO, Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Department for International Development (DFID) provide BIS with advice and analysis of the relevant foreign, defence and international development policy aspects. All advice and decisions are taken in line with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. You may want to consider contacting BIS for further information on UK export licensing and post-export controls, where that information is not already in the public domain. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/export-control-organisation>).

You can find responses to other FOI requests on the FCO's [website](#).

Yours sincerely,

Arms Export Policy Department

