



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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26 April 2016

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0365-16**

Thank you for your email of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*1...Can you please provide a list of occasions since 30 March 2015 to the present day when the Prince of Wales has met with the Secretary of State and or any Minister from the department and or one of the department's senior civil servants. In the case of each meeting can you identify the Secretary of State and or Minister and or civil servant. In the case of each meeting can you provide a date, time and venue. In the case of each meeting can you please provide a brief description of the topics under discussion. In the case of each meeting can you provide a full list of those present. In the case of each meeting can you please provide any documentation held by the department which relates specifically to the arrangements for the meeting and the topics under discussion.*

*2...Is any employee of the Prince of Wales and or his private office and or the Duchy of Cornwall currently on secondment to the department. If the answer is yes can you please state how many employees are currently on secondment. Could you please identify the relevant individuals and provide an explanation of their duties. In the case of each individual can you please state for how long they have been on secondment to the department.*

*3...Is any other employee of the Royal Household currently on secondment to the department. If so can you please provide the details outlined in question two.*

*4...Is any departmental civil servant and or representative currently on secondment to Buckingham Palace and or St James Palace and or Clarence House and or the Royal Household. If so can you please state the number of civil servants who are currently on secondment. Can you also identify the civil servant (s) and or representative (s) Can you specify where they are currently working. Can you please provide a brief description of the purpose of their secondment.*

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.

Q1 – We are withholding this information under section 37(1)(aa) (communications with the heir to, or the person who is for the time being second in line of succession to, the Throne). This is absolute exemption which is not subject to a public interest test.

Q2 – There are no employees of The Prince of Wales and or his private office and or the Duchy of Cornwall on secondment to the FCO.

Q3 – There are no employees of the Royal Household currently on secondment to the FCO.

Q4: There are members of the FCO on secondment to the Royal Households, but there are fewer than five. This means we are unable to release information that refers to personal data as it could potentially allow them to be identified. This is in accordance with section 40 – personal information, of the FOI Act. Section 40(2) and (3) provides an absolute exemption for personal data. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. 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.

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Yours sincerely,

Support Officer  
Talent and Capability Department



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