



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Protocol Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

09 November 2015

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0921-15**

Thank you for your email of 18 September 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*"I request that copies of all documents relating to and/or detailing the production assistance granted by the FCO to these two productions (Spectre and Downton Abbey) be released to me."*

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 copies of the email exchange between the producers of Downton Abbey and the FCO as well as the email chain between the location managers and the FCO in the production of Spectre. 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 applies. 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.

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Yours sincerely,

Conference and Events,  
Protocol Directorate



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