



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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

08 January 2016

REQUEST: 1197-15

Thank you for your e-mail of 13 December 2015, in which you asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act):

A list of the individuals who formed George Osborne's delegation during his official visit to China in September 2015.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information falling within the terms of your request. The Chancellor's delegation to China in September 2015 consisted of the following HM Treasury staff.

- Conrad Smewing, Principal Private Secretary to the Chancellor, HM Treasury
- Dan York-Smith, Press Secretary to the Chancellor and Head of Communications, HM Treasury
- Mark Bowman, Director General, International and EU, HM Treasury
- Geoffrey Spence, CEO of Infrastructure UK, HM Treasury

Some information is being withheld under the following exemption of the FOI Act:

Section 40 Personal information

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.

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Please contact me if you have any queries about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

China Department



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