



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Human Rights and Democracy Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

09 February 2016

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0121-16

Thank you for your email of 1 February asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

OSJA guidance by the government refers to a "HMG Death Penalty Assistance Policy".

Could I please ask for a copy of that policy.

I would like to add that as this is an openly referenced government policy, I do not anticipate that exemptions will apply to it.

In particular, I do not believe that S27 will apply to a policy document - it is actions that have the potential to prejudice foreign relations rather than policies.

Also bear in mind that I do not anticipate law enforcement exemptions to apply - again, it is simply a policy document and not in and of itself prejudicial.

If redactions are to be made I ask that they are sufficiently limited and remind you that redaction cannot contribute to cost-capping.

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.

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is

available on our website: the document “HMG Strategy on Abolition of the Death Penalty 2010-1015”,

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/35448/death-penalty-strategy-oct-11-15.pdf.

While the Government does not intend to publish a new strategy specific to the death penalty, the risk management principles set out in the document continue to inform HMG’s approach when delivering projects aimed at assisting other countries to abolish the death penalty. I suggest that section 8 (‘Delivery’) and Appendix 2 are particularly relevant to your interests.

Some of the details have changed since this strategy was published in 2011. In particular, The Human Rights Project Fund has been renamed the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy. The value of this fund – which will remain HMG’s principal tool for funding global human rights projects – has been doubled to £10.6 million in 2016.

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Yours sincerely,

Human Rights and Democracy Department



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