



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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24 June 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0361-15

Thank you for your email of 12 April asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- *any correspondences including emails, phone calls, letters and memos and the details of them between the office and The Clinton Foundation, charity based in America and headed up by Hillary Clinton, since 2010.*

This also refers to anything sent from inside the Prime Minister's office

In my email of 17 April I explained that our search for information would not include information sent directly, and exclusively, between the Prime Minister's Office and The Clinton Foundation.

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 the information that the FCO can release to you. Some of the information has been withheld under the following exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):

- Section 40(2) and (3) – personal information
- Section 27(1) and (2) – international relations
- Section 38(1)(b) – health and safety.

Some of 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 apply. 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 and it follows that there is no public interest test to apply.

Section 27(1) and (2) – relating to international relations is a qualified exemption. We can confirm that we have carried out a public interest test. In applying that test, we took into consideration the factors in favour of disclosure; in this case, that releasing such information would increase public knowledge about our relations with the Clinton Foundation. However, under Section 27(1), it recognises that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between the government and the US. Hillary Clinton, who is a member of the Clinton Foundation, is running in the 2016 US Presidential election. It is important for the United Kingdom to maintain a relationship of trust and confidence with Mrs Clinton, so its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will not be hampered, which would not be in the public interest.

Section 38(1)(b) – relating to health and safety is a qualified exemption. We can confirm that we have carried out a public interest test here too. In applying that test, we took into consideration the factors in favour of disclosure; in this case, that releasing such information would demonstrate openness and public accountability of the relationship between the FCO and the Clinton Foundation and the FCO's role in providing support on the events held by the Clinton Foundation in the UK. We balanced these factors against the grounds for non-disclosure. We felt that disclosure of details could be used by others to pose a significant risk to the personal safety of the individuals concerned. On balance we concluded that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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Yours Sincerely

North America Department



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