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## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0813-16**

Thank you for your email of 19 August 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*"How does the FCO define the phrase "close working relationship" when it comes to describing its relationship with foreign agencies? i.e. what level of principled agreement and practical cooperation merits such a description?"*

*If the FCO does not hold an established definition of the phrase, nonetheless please explain the phrase as you have used in the past, using the example below: "This work is based on a close working relationship with our Tunisian counterparts..."*  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/tunisia>)"

There is no single or established definition used by Her Majesty's Government of the phrase "close working relationship". Regarding the example of HMG's working relationship with the Tunisian authorities, described as "close" on the Department's website ([www.gov.uk/government/world/tunisia](http://www.gov.uk/government/world/tunisia)) under the "Announcements" heading, we consider that the nature of HMG's working relationship with Tunisia, supported by the information on the website about UK/Tunisia cooperation, justifies the description of the relationship as "close".

Yours sincerely,

North Africa Department



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