



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Pakistan and Afghanistan Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

16 May 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0407-16

Thank you for your email of 16 April asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1- *Can you please confirm or deny that Mr Altaf Hussain voluntarily accepted having links with RAW in a meeting with Francis Campbell, former deputy high commissioner in Pakistan.*
- 2- *Can you please confirm or deny that former Pakistan Interior Minister Rehman Malik was briefed on Altaf Hussain's links to RAW.*
- 3- *How many times Francis Campbell and FCO diplomats met Altaf Hussain and MQM in London and Pakistan after the murder of Dr Imran Farooq in 2010 and what was discussed, especially about the links with RAW?*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

In response to question 3, the records we hold indicate that fifteen meetings have taken place between MQM and FCO officials in London and Pakistan between January 2010 and December 2015.

In response to the remainder of your questions, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested.

The duty to confirm or deny does not arise by virtue of Section 27(4) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 27 of the Act concerns the relations between the United Kingdom and any other State, international organisation or international court, the interests of the United Kingdom abroad, and the promotion or protection by the United Kingdom of its interests abroad.

With regard to your request, we recognise there is a general public interest in openness and transparency in all aspects of government including in this instance, the United Kingdom's international relations. The above considerations have to be weighed against a strong public

interest in protecting the United Kingdom's international relations and, in particular, the ability of its officials to effectively promote and protect the interests of the United Kingdom.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has determined that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in neither confirming nor denying outweighs the public interest in disclosing whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds the information you have requested. This should not be taken as evidence that the information you requested does or does not exist.

Yours sincerely,

Pakistan & Afghanistan Department



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