



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Communications Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

5th January 2017

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1108-16

Thank you for your email of 08/08/2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please may I request the following information on each of the below Twitter accounts, broken down by Twitter account:

@foreignoffice
@BorisJohnson

1) The total number of individual Twitter accounts the account(s) in question has either sent a direct message (DM) to, or received a DM from, between November 1st 2016 and November 30th 2016 inclusive. (In layman's terms, I am seeking a single figure for each account: the number of DM conversations the account has been engaged in between November 1st 2016 and November 30th 2016 inclusive.)

2) A list of all individual account usernames the account(s) in question has either sent a DM to, or received a DM from, between November 1st 2016 and November 30th 2016 inclusive. (In layman's terms, I am seeking a list of Twitter usernames with whom the account has been engaged in conversation between November 1st 2016 and November 30th 2016 inclusive.)

3) Copies of all DMs the account(s) has sent or received from individual account usernames named in question 2) of the above request. (In layman's terms, the content of all DMs the account(s) has sent or received between November 1st 2016 and November 30th 2016 inclusive.)

I am writing to confirm that the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds information on the subject you have requested which you will find below.

- There are no DM's on the @BorisJohnson Twitter account.

@Foreign Office DM's:

- See Appendix below for copies of all usernames of DM's sent or received and copies of DM content in relation to question to 1, 2 and 3 of the above request:

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.

Section 27(1)(c) is a qualified exemption and as such we have considered where the greater public interest lies. Disclosure could meet the public interest in transparency and accountability. However, the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the UK does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be hampered, which will not be in the public interest. The disclosure of information setting out the thoughts of an official on our relationship with various states could potentially damage the relationship between the UK and those states. The relationships are on-going and comments - even dating back some time - could be taken into account by those states. This could reduce the UK Government's ability to protect and promote UK interests which would not be in the public interest. For these reasons we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Communications Department



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.

APPENDIX

@foreignoffice DM's			
Date	Sent / Received	Account(s)	Content
3 Nov	Sent	UKforSyrians UKagainstDaesh FranceBakerFCO garethbayley UKinIraq	FYI: Live tweets of FS Daesh Syria Iraq statement on @foreignoffice. Video clips due today pm
3 Nov	Sent	UKinRussia	Live FS Syria tweets on FCO account
			Videos later (probably tomorrow for)
			You*
3 Nov	Sent	DFID_UK	Shout out for UK aid when you pick this up:
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/794250295454801921
4 Nov	Received	UKinGermany	Dear all, I just wanted to let you know that I've just tweeted some photos from the FS's visit to Berlin today.
4 Nov	Received	UKinPoland	Retweeted, thanks for letting us know!
4 Nov	Received	UKinRomania	Will retweet as well
8 Nov	Sent	UKinMorocco	Hi
8 Nov			You need to put a full stop before the @ handle in your tweets otherwise nobody will

			see it
			.@
8 Nov	Received	UKinMorocco	Hi which tweet are you referring to
8 Nov	Sent		https://twitter.com/UKinMorocco/status/795702997158400000
			https://twitter.com/UKinMorocco/status/795702923984510977
			https://twitter.com/UKinMorocco/status/795687736925679616
			https://twitter.com/UKinMorocco/status/795682985819467778
			All of the above
			If you don't put a full stop before the @ then they won't appear in anyone's newsfeed
8 Nov	Received	UKinMorocco	Hi sorry about that slightly confused as I had never heard that before
			I tweeted using hootsuite
			And it picked up the names from there
			Will try that in future
8 Nov	Sent	UKinMorocco	No worries - hopefully it should get a few more retweets in future :)
8 Nov	Sent	UKNATO	Hi - who's running digital for @UKNATO these days? I'd like to forward a quick email ahead of remembrance day
9 Nov	Received	UKinEU	Good evening, just to inform that we've tweeted on Shan's appointment using the Welsh Govt press release from this evening.
			https://twitter.com/ukineu/status/796406476218781696
10 Nov	Received	UKinMorocco	Thanks :)
10 Nov	Sent	USAinUK	Afternoon: A quick clip from the Foreign Sec on the enduring US UK relationship if at all fit

			for your comms this week:
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/796691239764709376
10 Nov	Sent	StateDept	Hi colleagues. A quick clip from Foreign Sec Boris Johnson on the enduring US UK relationship if relevant for any of your messaging this week:
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/796691239764709376
14 Nov	Sent	UKinLebanon	FYI: Today's FAC clip just went up
		UKinTurkey	Also on Facebook
		UKinYemen	https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/798209902992728064
14 Nov	Received	UKinLebanon	Thanks.
14 Nov	Received	UKinEU	Dear all - just to say Angus has tweeted for the first time. Grateful for any engagement
			https://twitter.com/AngusLapsleyFCO/status/798187754907701248
14 Nov	Received	UKinBelgium	Brussels is on it.
14 Nov	Received	UKinAustria	Austria likes it
14 Nov	Received	UKinPoland	Done in Warsaw too!
14 Nov	Received	UKinRomania	Done in Bucharest tooo
14 Nov	Received	UkinMalta	Done
14 Nov	Sent	UkinItaly, UKinCoatia, ukinhungary, ukinfinland, ukinnl, ukinestonia, UKinBulgaria, UKinBelgium, UKinSlovenia, BritEmbDublin, UKinGermany, UKinDenmark,	FS FAC clip is available on FCO
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/798209902992728064

		UKinCyprus, UKinCR, UKinAustria, UKinSlovakia, UKinFrance, UKinMalta, ukinromania, UKinSweden,	
14 Nov	Received	UKinSweden	Really good one! Thanks!
14 Nov	Sent	UKinItaly, UKinCoatia, ukinhungary, ukinfinland, ukinnl, ukinestonia, UKinBulgaria, UKinBelgium, UKinSlovenia, BritEmbDublin, UKinGermany, UKinDenmark, UKinCyprus, UKinCR, UKinAustria, UKinSlovakia, UKinFrance, UKinMalta, ukinromania, UKinSweden,	Thank you - also on FB if relevant
15 Nov	Received	UKinRomania	Thanks! We will also share on facebook
15 Nov	Sent	UKinFrance	Hi - this video is awesome! Can I publish on FCO Twitter & Facebook tomorrow at 8:00 am UK time?
			https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57NQDlVKukQ
15 Nov	Received	UKinFrance	Of course.
15 Nov	Sent	UKinFrance	Thank you
			Let me know when you share so we can

			retweet you.
15 Nov	Received	UKinFrance	Thanks for the retweet!
16 Nov	Sent	WomenEqualities	Morning. It's week of women at FCO and we've just tweeted one of our better videos. Great story from Paris on Women leadership. RT's v much welcomed if it works for your channel
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/798798103935524865
16 Nov	Sent	UKUN_NewYork UKMissionGeneva UKMissionVienna	Hello all. If you've any channel downtime today it would be great to get an RT of this and/or the follow-up photo tweets:
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/798557755590090752
16 Nov	Received	UKUN_NewYork	Thanks- planning to feature #weekofwomen sometime in the next hour
16 Nov	Received	UKMissionGenva	Sure!
16 Nov	Received	UKUN_NewYork	We're doing a 'Humans of New York' style feed of women leaders at UKMis. Mostly through Instagram, but will cross promote on Twitter/Tumblr/Facebook/etc. Will make this part of that story line.
16 Nov	Sent	UKUN_NewYork UKMissionGeneva UKMissionVienna	Thanks. Will look out for the NY Insta content to like and regram
16 Nov	Received	UKMissionVienna	Done
18 Nov	Received	UKinMalta	Dear all, I just posted the first video of our HoM on our account, highlighting the close UK-Malta relationship. I would be most grateful if posts could RT please? And any feedback would also be appreciated! Thanks!
18 Nov	Sent	UkinItaly, UKinCoatia, ukinhungary, ukinfinland, ukinnl,	Nice first video. Few tips for the next one: 1) HoM's face is in shadow. Consider a reflector or having a light behind the camera as it's hard for a viewer to attach themselves

		ukinestonia, UKinBulgaria, UKinBelgium, UKinSlovenia, BritEmbDublin, UKinGermany, UKinDenmark, UKinCyprus, UKinCR, UKinAustria, UKinSlovakia, UKinFrance, UKinMalta, ukinromania, UKinSweden,	<p>to a subject if they can't see their eyes</p> <p>2) Add subtitles. 90% of users will listen to this without sound so these are imperative now</p> <p>3) Branding. Add the FCO or embassy crest as a final frame or float it in the corner throughout the video</p> <p>4) Framing. The background provides a great sense of place so I would point the camera more towards that and remove some of the sky</p> <p>5) Could also potentially add the odd 'cutaway' shot of HoM walking through Malta or a simple panning shot of the marina below you to break it up</p> <p>Well done - look forward to seeing some more</p>
19 Nov	Sent	UKinItaly, UKinCoatia, ukinhungary, ukinfinland, ukinnl, ukinestonia, UKinBulgaria, UKinBelgium, UKinSlovenia, BritEmbDublin, UKinGermany, UKinDenmark, UKinCyprus, UKinCR, UKinAustria, UKinSlovakia, UKinFrance, UKinMalta, ukinromania, UKinSweden,	Afternoon. Remembrance video for FCO staff killed whilst serving published today. Also on FCO Facebook and YouTube
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/799900034661634048
19 Nov	Sent	UKCivilService	Hi. Grateful if you could consider RT'ing our remembrance ceremony video for civil servants and diplomats lost in the line of duty:
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/799900034661634048

			0034661634048
19 Nov	Sent	CabinetOffice	Afternoon. We have a remembrance video for all FCO staff lost in service. Grateful for any sharing if appropriate. Also on Facebook
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/799900034661634048
22 Nov	Received	UKHomeOffice,	Hi both, would it be possible to retweet our registered traveller tweet, please:
			https://twitter.com/ukhomeoffice/status/800775799502565376
			Would be much appreciated if you could
22 Nov	Sent	UKHomeOffice, tradegovuk	Done - thanks for sharing
22 Nov	Received	UKHomeOffice	Thank you very much.
22 Nov	Sent	MaydayRescue SyriaCivilDef	Evening. Many thanks for the footage - clip has just been published following today's meeting with Minister Ellwood.
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/801135258406006784
22 Nov	Received	Mayday Rescue	Good evening. Thanks very much - will RT from the Mayday and SCD feeds
24 Nov	Sent	ukinpakistan	Intro video is on both Twitter & Facebook if able to share:
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/801736272171716608
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/801736272171716608
			FS video now on Twitter & Facebook. Let me know if you would like a copy to post on you channel rather than RT/share:
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/802128517311799296
25 Nov	Received	UKinPakistan	could you email to thank you
25 Nov	Sent	UKinPakistan	On its way

25 Nov	Received	UKinPakistan	great. he'll send it out in an hour or so. thank you!
25 Nov	Sent	UKinPakistan	Two posts on @borisjohnson Facebook. Grateful if you could share over the weekend at popular times
25 Nov	Received	UKinPakistan	Sure I will make sure to share them over the weekend.
25 Nov	Sent	UKinPakistan	Thank you - great work this week!
25 Nov	Received	@traidcraft	Hi guys, we'd love it if you could support our alternative Black Friday campaign #JustFriday - we're asking people to shop with thought and buy with love today. It would be awesome if you could share our animation. Thanks
			https://twitter.com/traidcraft/status/802070084525129728
26 Nov	Sent	UKinAfghanistan	Hi - just spotted the 'humans of Afghanistan' film you have tweeted. Would FCO have permission to post on the main account?
26 Nov	Received	UKinAfghanistan	Yes we got permission do please do! All our tweets coming out today so please retweet and share as you see fit.
28 Nov	Sent	BritishCouncil, DefenceHQ	Afternoon. Short clip from the FS in Afghanistan. Name checks work of both British Council and British forces. Grateful if you could consider amplifying. Also on FCO Facebook
			https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/803240791804026880
29 Nov	Received	The_IGC	https://twitter.com/The_IGC/status/803632113555800064
30 Nov	Received	UKGovScotland,	Hi all - thanks so much for supporting our #GlobalStAndrews day social media activity. We've put together this Twitter moment featuring some of your wonderful tweets. Thanks from all of us at the Scotland Office

			#GlobalStAndrews
			https://twitter.com/i/moments/804013067038289920

ENDS.