



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

30 December 2014

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1093-14

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

I would like to ask what scrutiny did the FCO perform regarding the subsequent professional activities conducted by David Frost upon his departure from the UK government?

At the time of his departure he was on secondment to BIS as Director of Europe Trade and International Affairs but from the FCO. BIS has told me that the FCO was responsible for reviewing Mr Frost's new professional activities including to join the Scotch Whisky Association in January 2014.

I would like to receive copies of all related documents, including decisions, emails, letters, minutes of meetings etc. More information is available here:

<http://www.scotch-whisky.org.uk/who-we-are/chief-executive-directors/david-frost/>

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.

The information requested 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 FOIA 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. We do not therefore have to apply the public interest test.

I can tell you that Mr Frost's appointment complied with the rules on Business Appointments which are set by the Cabinet Office and adopted by the FCO. These rules are intended to ensure that people employed in the public sector are able to move into business outside central Government and that such movement does not result in a conflict of interest or allow the individual to exploit their Government contacts or provide competitive advantage to the recruiting organisation. A copy of the rules, is attached for information.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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Yours sincerely,

Human Resources Directorate



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