



## Foreign & Commonwealth Office

**Commercial & Procurement Group**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

30 January 2017

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0738-16**

Thank you for your email of 29<sup>th</sup> July asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. Do you formally assess the cyber risk posed by your suppliers during procurement / on-boarding?*
- 2. Do you include anything in your contracts with suppliers that would require them to notify you if a data breach compromised any of your data?*
- 3. If yes, when was the last time you received such a notification?*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested and can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

1. The FCO does formally assess the cyber risk posed by suppliers in regards to relevant procurement of goods and services, and during the on-boarding and on-going provision of these goods and services. The FCO will also configure the contracts to address any potential risks. Mitigation may include measures such as site visits or accreditation to the HMG Cyber Essentials scheme ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/317480/Cyber\\_Essentials\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/317480/Cyber_Essentials_Summary.pdf))
2. FCO Model contract conditions contain specific clauses to this effect. Where appropriate the FCO will strengthen such clauses in regards to specific contracts where the cyber risk is assessed as higher than normal.
3. This information is exempt under Sections 31(3) and 24(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 31 relates to law enforcement and Section 24 refers to National Security. To the extent these sections apply, we have determined that in all circumstances of this data, the public interest in maintaining exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether the FCO holds the information. To give a statement of the reasons why the exceptions apply would involve the disclosure of exempt information.

Yours sincerely,

Commercial Procurement Group



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.