

# FOI Release

Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

**Title:** MoUs with the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

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**Date of release: 05 October 2015**

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## Information request

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Could I please kindly request copies of all applicable MoUs with the British Overseas Territories (OT) and Crown Dependencies (CD)

## Information released

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In our initial response to your request, on 16th September, we confirmed that the UK Space Agency holds the information which you requested. However, a qualified exemption under Section 27 (1) of the Act applies to this information. The information which you requested was therefore withheld, pending the results of a public interest test.

Section 27 (1) applies to any information which, if disclosed, would or would be likely to prejudice:

- Relations between the United Kingdom and any other state.
- Relations between the United Kingdom and any other international organisation or international court.
- The interests of the United Kingdom abroad.
- The promotion or protection by the United Kingdom of its interests abroad.

Having applied the public interest test, we consider that the public interest in disclosing the information you requested is outweighed by the public interest considerations in favour of withholding it. The UK Space Agency's decision is therefore to withhold the information.

In reaching this decision, the UK Space Agency has consulted with the Governments of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies which would be affected by the disclosure of the information you have requested, in line with Freedom of Information Act guidelines. This confirmed that information provided to the UK Space Agency in relation to the MoUs themselves was done so on the basis that it would remain confidential. Such confidentiality is considered important for a continued open and productive relationship between the UK and the governments of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

Disclosure may therefore harm UK interests in terms of maintaining the successful working relationships we have with the Governments of the Overseas Territories and

Crown Dependencies. In turn, this could harm the UK Government's ability to conclude any future agreements.

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