



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

24 November 2015

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1053-15

Thank you for your email of 1 November 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. Regarding the state visit of the Chinese president the list of the official delegation, non official delegation and list of the accredited Chinese media. If you plan to withhold information under Section 27 (1) and (2) then just the job titles of the non official delegation.*
- 2. I would like an explanation why information has not been proactively released for 2015 state visits as stated in the review of my previous FOI request that i attach above. and which has been promised for around 2 years now from previous foi requests.*

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

You can find the list of the official delegation on the Court Circular website - <http://www.royal.gov.uk/LatestNewsandDiary/CourtCircular/Todaysevents.aspx> and searching for China. This is published during each State Visit. I can also confirm that the President was accompanied by 95 members of the non official delegation and 95 accredited Chinese media.

The names of the unofficial delegation/media personnel 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.

Proactively releasing information relating to State and Guest of Government visits to the UK is part of the FCO's commitment to demonstrate transparency in government spending. We can confirm that information has been proactively released for the State Visits in 2014. State Visit costs are complex and do take time to be finalised, hence the delay with 2015 figures.

As information relating to the official delegation is already available via the Court Circular as detailed above, we believe there is no need for us to duplicate this information.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

The copies of information being supplied to you continue to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCO will have been produced by government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives website.

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non-Crown Copyright) information.

Yours sincerely,

Protocol Directorate



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.