



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Diplomatic Missions and  
International Organisations Unit  
Protocol Directorate

Room KG.01  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

12 August 2016

[www.gov.uk/fco](http://www.gov.uk/fco)

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0691-16**

Thank you for your email of 21 July asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*Please may I request details of the following:*

*1. All correspondence and information held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office relating to the 11 serious and significant offences committed by people entitled to diplomatic immunity in the United Kingdom, as published here:*

*<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-07-21/HCWS106/>;*

*2. Whether in each of these allegations, enquiries led to the waiving of diplomatic immunity;*

*3. In each of these allegations if diplomatic immunity was waived, whether the alleged offender was convicted, charged or withdrawn from the country.*

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information you requested.

We can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

We expect all foreign diplomats in the UK to abide by UK laws at all times. We take a proactive approach – regularly reminding missions of diplomats' obligations to respect UK laws. We take a firm line with diplomatic missions and international organisations whose diplomats commit offences.

All alleged offences are investigated by the police or other law enforcement agencies. In the case of the most serious alleged offences, we would request the immediate withdrawal of the diplomat in question unless his or her mission agreed to waive immunity and offered full cooperation with the investigation.

On 3 August 2015 we replied to a previous Freedom of Information request about serious and significant requests allegedly committed by people entitled to diplomatic immunity in the UK, and waivers of immunity. This reply is published on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-release-diplomatic-immunity-and-alleged-serious-offences>.

Our reply of 3 August 2015 withheld information under the following sections of the FOIA:

- 27(1)(a) (International Relations);
- 31(1)(g)(2)(a) (Law Enforcement); and
- 40(2) & (3) (Personal Information).

We are satisfied that the above exemptions are also relevant to your request. Furthermore, given that our reply of 3 August 2015 is, in our view, already reasonably accessible to you, section 21 of the FOIA (information accessible by other means) does not require us to provide an additional explanation of the use of those exemptions.

We can, however, confirm that the police asked the FCO to request waivers of immunity in connection with five of the alleged serious and significant offences listed in this year's Written Ministerial Statement (WMS). One waiver was granted.

Additionally, in respect of each of the 11 alleged serious and significant offences named in this year's WMS, the FCO sent appropriate warnings to the missions in question. We demanded that two of the alleged offenders leave the UK and the individuals have since left the diplomatic mission or missions in question. A further two alleged offenders were withdrawn permanently by their governments and one more left the UK of his or her own accord.

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Yours sincerely,

Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations Unit  
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