



Foreign &  
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Office

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20 August 2015

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0736-15**

Thank you for your email of 23 July 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*“Between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013:*

- 1. On how many occasions did UK personnel visit the US detention facility at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan?*
- 2. On what dates were these visits conducted?*
- 3. On each occasion, who conducted the visits? Please provide me with official titles and job descriptions rather than names.*
- 4. Who, within the US government or military, did UK government personnel visit on each occasion? Please provide me with official titles and job descriptions rather than names.*
- 5. What was discussed on each occasion?*
- 6. What was the purpose of the visit on each occasion?”*

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 US ran the pre-trial Detention Facility at Bagram Airfield until March 2013 when it was handed over to the Afghan authorities and was re-named the Afghan National Detention Facility (Parwan) or ANDF(P). Within ANDF-P, a US-run facility accommodated US-captured third country nationals who, at the request of the Afghan Government, were not transferred to Afghan custody when the Afghan authorities assumed responsibility for ANDF (P). This closed in December 2014. To avoid any ambiguity, I am taking ‘the US detention facility at Bagram Airfield’ to include both establishments.

The answers to your questions are, in order:

1. The FCO holds records of six such visits in 2013 by UK personnel;
2. On 6 February, 11 March, May (precise date unspecified), 5 June, 23 July and 31 October;
3. The visits were undertaken by various combinations of FCO and MOD civilian staff, UK military, and the Secretary of State for Defence. The information you have requested includes personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene

one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply;

4. The UK personnel were hosted by the Commanders of the US Combined Joint Inter-Agency Task Force 435, and of the US mentors Task Force, Titan.
5. The purpose of these visits and the subject of discussions was to review progress toward the conclusion of the US mission as well as reassurances that detainees who had been captured by UK forces and transferred into Afghan custody continued to be treated humanely.
6. The purpose of the visits was to obtain regular first-hand information on processes and conditions at the facility and reassurance that detainees who had been captured by UK forces and transferred into Afghan custody continued to be treated humanely.

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Yours sincerely,

Pakistan and Afghanistan Department



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