



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

North Africa and Middle East Directorate  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Old Admiralty Building  
London

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

27 April 2015

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0348-15**

Thank you for your email of 8 April asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. Please confirm whether the UK Government currently provides any form of torture prevention training to police and/or security services including prison officers, members of the Ombudsmen and Special [Interrogation] Investigations Unit[s] in Bahrain.*
- 2. If so, please supply the details of this training including its nature, form and purpose.*
- 3. Are any external human rights bodies used to facilitate the training of security services in Bahrain.*
- 4. What appropriate methods are employed to test the success of the training provided.*

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 UK is providing a package of technical assistance to support the Government of Bahrain's reform programme and implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and the UN Universal Periodic Review. Information about the UK's government's assistance programme is detailed in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report, (<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/bahrain-reform-implementation>) which is updated every six months. Part of the UK's assistance is focussed on strengthening the oversight mechanisms responsible for investigating allegations of torture and mistreatment and supporting the reform of detention procedures in Bahrain. The UK's current work in this area includes:

- supporting the establishment of an independent Ombudsman's office to deal with any complaints made against the Ministry of Interior. With UK funding, Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas (NI-CO) has been providing capacity building and mentoring support to the Ombudsman's office.

- supporting the establishment of a Prisoners' and Detainees' Rights Commission (PDRC) through Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). HMIP have provided exposure to UK best practice, training and mentoring on carrying out prison inspections and reporting. The PDRC is a national requirement for ratification of the Option Protocol for the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).
- supporting a review of prison management and detention standards in Bahrain. This involves UK advisors working with the Ministry of Interior to introduce policies and procedures in line with international best practice and ensuring that new prison plans comply with UN standards.
- creating awareness of international best practice and providing an introduction to human rights to support police recruits who are going to be prison officers.
- sharing best practice in line with international standards on neighbourhood policing through NI-CO.

You also ask how we test the success of the training the UK provides. It is standard practice to evaluate the projects that we are providing to the government of Bahrain for their impact once they have concluded. Officials will do this with all British assistance projects in Bahrain. The outcome of the evaluation will be used to inform and improve any future assistance that we provide. Programmes are monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure that they are on track for delivery. In line with HMG guidance, all projects have an accompanying Overseas Security and Justice Assistance (OSJA) instrument in place.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

Yours sincerely,

Gulf Team



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.