



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

14 April 2015

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0256-15

Thank you for your email of 05 March 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

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 some information relevant to your request.

You asked:

1. Regarding the nato summit in wales a list of where each head of state/government stayed if not accomodated in the celtic manor and if this was paid for by the uk government.

ANSWER: Please see Annex A for the list of hotels used by delegations attending the NATO Summit. The British Government did not contribute to accommodation costs for delegation hotels listed in Annex A.

2. the number/type of cars and coaches that were hired for the nato summit.

ANSWER: Please see Annex B for the list of vehicles used during the NATO Summit.

3. the organisational structure of the nato summit organisation secretariat e.g media, protocol, accreditation

ANSWER: Please see Annex C for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office NATO Summit Organogram.

4. a list of the delegations from each country attending the summit excluding any security/intelligence personnel.

ANSWER: The information you have requested in question 4 is not held by this Department. The accreditation process was managed by NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

Some of the information in Annex A and C has been withheld using Section 24 (National Security), Section 27 (international relations) and Section 40 (personal data).

We believe that naming where each Head of State/Government stayed and naming the officials in the FCO Organogram for the NATO Summit 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. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

We have also concluded that naming where each Head of State/Government stayed during the NATO Summit is exempt from disclosure under Section 24 (1) of the FOIA. Section 24 is a qualified exemption, which requires the application of a public interest test. The FCO believes releasing this information could compromise the security of future visits to the United Kingdom by Heads of State/Government from countries who attended the NATO Summit in Wales. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency but we consider there is also a public interest in the FCO protecting national security. We have therefore concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

Section 27(1)(a) of the FOIA recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and other states if it was disclosed. The application of s.27(1)(a) requires us to consider the public interest test arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. We acknowledge that releasing information on this issue would increase public knowledge about our relations with NATO Allies and Partner countries. But s.27(1)(a) recognises that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the United Kingdom does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be hampered, which will not be in the public interest. For these reasons we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

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Yours sincerely,

Event Manager
Conference & Events Team



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