



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Consular Directorate
WH4.3
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

www.gov.uk/government/organisations

2 September 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0755-14

Thank you for your email of 2 August asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*The Foreign and Commonwealth Office recently published an addition to its travel advice guidance document for the United Arab Emirates. The text "You should be aware that the UAE Personal Affairs Law, which is based on Islamic principles, can apply to foreign nationals in child custody and divorce cases" was added to this page: <https://www.gov.uk/living-in-the-united-arab-emirates#social-ethics-and-traditions-in-uae>. I would like to be furnished with information relating to why this additional guidance was published. Policy documents and/or any correspondence and discussion notes **which resulted and led to** the decision to include the additional advice on UAE travel guidance. If any of the information is publicly available please could you kindly point me to it?*

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.

Information Released

I attach the information requested for correspondence and discussions notes about this updated line added to our 'Living in the United Arab Emirates' Guide. Please note this is not additional guidance, it is an update to the Guide with information that is already on our website in our "United Arab Emirates – Child Abduction" guide which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/united-arab-emirates-child-abduction>

All of our guides for the UAE can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-dubai>

Withheld Data

We have withheld some of the data that relates to Section 40 - Personal Data, of the FOIA. 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 believe, 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.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, 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.

The information supplied to you continues 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. You can find details on the arrangement for re-using Crown Copyright information on the [TNA](#) 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,

Desk Officer
FOI / DPA Team
Consular 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.