



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Operations Team
Middle East and North Africa Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

19 August 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0774-15

Thank you for your letter of 29 July requesting information on the Locally Engaged Iraqi Staff – Direct Entry Assistance Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

1. *What information was given to those who previously qualified under the Scheme regarding its termination?*
2. *What information was available in the public domain regarding its termination?*
3. *Where was this information published?*

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.

1. *What information was given to those who previously qualified under the Scheme regarding its termination?*

On 23 March 2009, the then Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, announced that the Locally Engaged Iraqi Staff – Direct Entry Assistance Scheme would close for any ‘former staff’ who qualified under the scheme. On 16 September 2010, the then Foreign Secretary, William Hague, announced that the scheme would close for ‘serving staff’ who qualified under the scheme. Under section 21 of the FOI Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. This is an absolute exemption and so the Public Interest Test does not apply. The information can be found on Hansard, the edited verbatim report of proceedings of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, at the following address: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/>. After the announcements in 2009 and 2010, this information, along with contact details for those wishing to apply, was communicated in official FCO press releases – copies are included as annexes to this letter.

2. *What information was available in the public domain regarding its termination?*

The written Ministerial statements referred to above. In addition, the FCO issued press releases on both occasions containing this information, along with contact details for those wishing to apply.

3. *Where was this information published?*

The Ministerial statements were published in Hansard and the FCO issued press releases.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives 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,

Middle East and North Africa Operations Team,
Middle East and North Africa Directorate, FCO



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.