



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Africa Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
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14 March 2016

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0197-16**

Thank you for your email of 15 February 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. I would like to request all internal correspondence and communications held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that refers to the 2014 report published by the Danish Immigration Service, on its fact-finding mission to Eritrea. As for a timeframe, please search your records from 01 November 2014 to 01 April 2015.*
- 2. I would also like to request all correspondence and communications between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office that refers to the 2014 report published by the Danish Immigration Service, on its fact-finding mission to Eritrea. As for a timeframe, please search your records from 01 November 2014 to 01 April 2015.*

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.

Please find attached the information that the FCO can release to you. Some of the information has been withheld using section 27 – international relations.

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. In this case, the release of information relating to immigration matters could harm our relations with Denmark.

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 Denmark. However, 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. The disclosure of information detailing our relationship with the Danish Government could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and Denmark. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with Denmark, which would 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.

Some of the information you have requested, is 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.

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Yours sincerely,

Africa Directorate



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