



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

International Organisations Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

09 February 2017

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0051-17

Thank you for your email of 14 January 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1) What activities has the Inter-Departmental Committee on International Humanitarian Law undertaken in relation to civilian dissemination and military instruction in the UK since 2000?*
- 2) The text of the speech given by the UK at the 32nd meeting of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, 8-10 December 2015, in relation to the ICRC/Government of Switzerland Initiative on Strengthening Compliance with International Humanitarian Law. In addition, how did the UK vote on the defeated ICRC/Swiss draft resolution?*

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 sections of the records of the Inter-Department Committee on International Humanitarian Law which relate to activities regarding civilian dissemination and military instruction in the UK have been included in a digest.

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The speech given by Baroness Anelay on 10 December 2015 at the 32nd International Red Cross/Red Crescent Conference is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/foreign-office-minister-for-human-rights-visits-geneva>.

The ICRC/Swiss resolution was not put to a vote.

Some of the information contained within the digest has been redacted as it 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 interests test to apply.

Yours sincerely,

International Organisations Department



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.