



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Human Rights & Democracy Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

21 April 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0205-15

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“according to a number of reports, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women was, during her 2014 fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom, prevented from visiting Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre although she had expressed a request to visit this facility, given its relevance to female immigration detainees.

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request access to any internal documents related to this request by the Special Rapporteur and the decision to refuse it, specifically

- any meeting notes of meetings where this request was raised by the Special Rapporteur or internally discussed by relevant officials*
- any internal emails, memoranda or file notes pertaining to this request to visit Yarl's Wood IRC and the refusal of this request.”*

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 redacted using Section 40 (personal data).

However, some of the information within the scope of your request is exempt under Section 36(2)(b)(ii) of the Freedom of Information Act. This exemption requires the application of the public interest test. With regard to Section 36, it is the opinion of a Minister of State that the disclosure would inhibit the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. There is a strong public interest in protecting the space HMG Ministers and officials have to consider and discuss options, to ensure that full and proper consideration to policy is given. The candour of contributions to this process will be affected by officials' assessment of whether the content of such discussion will be disclosed in the near future. This would have a negative impact on the quality of decision

making, which is clearly not in the public interest. We consider that the public interest in withholding this information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

Team Leader

Team Leader, UN Team

Human Rights & Democracy 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.