



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

15 June 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0519-17

Thank you for your email of 30 May asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“I would like to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, a list of guests to Chevening, excluding family members, since 13 July 2016. The list should include all those hosted by the Foreign Secretary and any other minister at the FCO, and include the names of those individuals attending and any organisation that they represent, the date, and hospitality received ie. dinner, overnight stay.”

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.

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information if it is already reasonably accessible to you. Information on the Foreign Secretary's official use of Chevening until September 2016 is available through the relevant Transparency Data return on the gov.uk website: www.gov.uk/government/collections/minister-data

Information on the Foreign Secretary's official use of Chevening in subsequent quarters is being withheld under section 22 of the Act (information intended for future publication).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption which is subject to the public interest test. There is a public interest in government departments providing information they hold that falls within the scope of a freedom of information request as quickly as possible. However, we need to balance this with the public interest in government ensuring the maximum cost effectiveness. Providing this information in response to a freedom of information request is not the most cost effective way of placing this information in the public domain when it will be published in due course on the FCO website.

We have therefore concluded that the public interest in withholding this information in our response to your request outweighs the public interest in releasing it.

The Chevening Estate is not owned by the Government and is managed by independent Trustees.

Yours sincerely,

Foreign Secretary's Office



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.