



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Africa Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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9 May 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0172-17

Thank you for your email of 13 and 15 February 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“Under the Freedom of Information act, I request from you the following FCO faxes and cables sent to and from Kampala, Uganda, from 1990-1994. More specifically I request:

Kampala to London (FCO/HMC/17) 1st October 1990

Kampala to London (FCO/HMC/16) 4th October 1990

Kampala to London (FCO/HMC/15) 8th October 1990

Kampala to London (FCO/HMC/07) 12th October 1990

Kampala to London (FCO/HMC/12) 1st November 1990

Kampala to FCO London, 7th December 1990

Kampala to FCO London, 29th November 1990

Kampala to London (FCO/HMC/06) 23rd January 1991

Kampala to London (FCO/HMC/11) 24th January 1991

FCO telegram from Edward Clay in Kampala to FCO London, undated, but likely to be early May 1994.

FCO telegram from Edward Clay in Kampala to FCO London, undated but stamped by FCO to be 12th May 1994

FCO telegram from Edward Clay in Kampala to FCO London 20th May 1994

FCO memorandum from Edward Clay to FCO London, 12th April 1994

FCO 'Rwanda: Annual Review 1990' 23rd January 1991”

Our email of 13 February explained that your request as drafted was too broad and would exceed the statutory limit, we also asked you to refine your request and to specify a particular topic for the correspondence you were seeking. You confirmed in your email of 15 February that your request be refined as follows:

“any communications regarding the Great Lakes region, but most specifically Rwanda and Uganda. I am researching the British governments response to the Rwandan genocide, so the following documents would be most helpful.

I request access to, under the FOIA, Uganda/Kampala-London FCO cables and correspondence written between 1st October 1990 and 20th December, 1990, regarding or discussing the Great Lakes region of Africa, specifically Rwanda and Uganda.

I request access to, under the FOIA, Uganda/Kampala-London FCO cables and correspondence written from and between January 1994 - July 1994, regarding or discussing the Great Lakes region of Africa, specifically Rwanda and Uganda.

I also request access to the FCO 'Rwanda: Annual Review 1990' released on 23rd January 1991, regarding Rwanda."

This request has been dealt by both the Africa Directorate and Historical FOI Team in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I am writing to confirm that the Africa Directorate have now completed the search for the information which you requested for information after 1992. The Historical FOI team will be in touch with you separately regarding information prior to 1992.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. The relevant documents have been sent to you in three separate attachments; FOI 0172-17 Part One, FOI 0172-17 Part Two and FOI 1072-17 Part Three. These documents have been redacted to remove information that falls under the following exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Section 27 (1)(a) 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 states in the Great Lakes region.

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 the Rwandan genocide and our interaction with states in the Great Lake region. 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 Great Lakes region could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and these states. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests, 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.

Section 40 (2) and (3) Personal information

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.

Yours sincerely,

Africa Directorate



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.