



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Near East Department**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

25 July 2017

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0618-17**

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked for the following records and documents:

- 1) An explanation of the partnership between the British Embassy and Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate including what role the British Embassy Policing Support Team and Siren Associates played in training the community police stationed at Azraq and whether the Embassy Police and Siren are still actively involved in security.*
- 2) The number of community police and community police assistants currently present in Azraq (Blue Camp) in Jordan, including the names of any commanding officers.*
- 3) An explanation of the vetting process and how these officers are selected for work at Azraq.*
- 4) Documents, log book records, internal memos, and any other documentation from 2017 that lists any complaints made by refugees at Azraq regarding community police officers and assistants or any concerns or issues that aid workers and NGO reps have expressed with regards to conduct and procedure handling by community police.*
- 5) Documentation detailing how refugees are currently tracked at Azraq and the tracking mechanism and/or procedure for when a refugee or an entire family leaves or is missing from camp.*

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 requests 1 and 3. The FCO does not hold any information relevant to requests 2, 4 and 5. I attach a digest of the material that can be released to you. The majority of the material is taken from a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Interior, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and The Foreign and Commonwealth Office of

the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on A Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate Community Police Assistant (CPA) Project.

The MoU itself is exempt under Section 27 – International Relations. The application of S27 (1) (a) of the FOI Act requires us to consider the public interest test arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. We acknowledge that releasing all the information held would increase the public knowledge of this issue and our relations with other countries. However, S27 (1) (a) recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and international partners. 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, this would reduce the UK Government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations. That would not be in the public interest. In this case the disclosure of information detailing our relationships with other governments could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and international partners.

Yours sincerely,

Near East 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.