



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**EECAD**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

24 March 2017

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

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0269-17**

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

*Regarding Simon McDonald, United Kingdom's Permanent Under Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, recent visit to Baku, can you please disclose:*

- 1. Length of trip*
- 2. Itinerary of the trip*
- 3. Agenda and minutes regarding all meetings that Simon McDonald attended during his visit*
- 4. Names and job titles of all those who were present at these meetings.*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information that you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. Some of the information you have requested, however, 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.

Simon McDonald visited Baku on 5-7 April 2017. The itinerary of his trip is attached, which also contains details of the people he met. Details of junior officials and British Petroleum

personnel who attended the meetings have been withheld on section 40 (Personal Information) grounds. No agenda or minutes of the meetings were produced.

Yours sincerely,

Eastern Europe and Central Asia 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.