



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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

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

10 May 2017

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0073-17**

Thank you for your email of 19 January 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I understand that on 11 January, Minister Ellwood met with Jonathan Arkush, President of the Board of Deputies, about UN Security Council resolution 2334.*

*Please could you email me a copy of all recorded information you hold related to the meeting, including but not limited to:*

*Who requested it*

*Any record of what was discussed*

*Any negotiations over press releases*

We are withholding some information under section 35 – Formulation of Government Policy, and section 40 – Personal Information.

Some information has been withheld under section 35 as it relates to the formulation of government policy. This exemption requires the application of a public interest test. There is public interest in protecting policy-making processes and ensuring this process remains able to deliver effective government. This is considered against the public interest in making publicly available information about policy-making processes. We consider that the balance of the public interest lies in favour of withholding certain information in relation to your request because it relates to ministerial correspondence and the operation of private offices, which are necessary to develop and deliver government policy.

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, section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

Please find enclosed the information that we can release to you in response to your request.

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.