



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

08 September 2017

Your Freedom Of Information Request: 0671-17

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 13 July 2017. In your request you asked;

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide copies of the following records for the years 2015, 2016 and up to the date in 2017 when this request is processed.

- *The number of contracts awarded by the FCO to:*
 - *The Causeway Institute for Peace-building and Conflict Resolution*
 - *Causeway Public Affairs Consultancy Ltd.*
- *The values of the contracts and basic details (eg... title, location to be delivered)*
- *The titles of any reports prepared by the Causeway Institute for the British embassy in Bahrain and the dates in which they were prepared*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does hold information falling within the terms of your request, which you can find in the digest document attached.

In respect of details pertaining to the values of the contracts, information the Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds is being withheld under section 27 (International Relations) of the FOIA. Section 43 (Commerical Interests) was also looked at but considered not to apply.

Section 27(1)(a) International relations, applies here because disclosure would be likely to prejudice the relationship between the United Kingdom and Bahrain. The application of section 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 our relations with Bahrain. But section 27(1)(a) recognises that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between States. The disclosure of specific detailed information in regards to UK funded Bahraini projects could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and Bahrain. This would reduce the UK Government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with Bahrain, 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 the information.

Yours sincerely,

Arabian Peninsula and Iran 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.