



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Information Management Department

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

16 January 2017

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0994-16

Thank you for your email of 20 October 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I would like to request information under the FoIA about Bob Stewart MP's trips to Taiwan, Kazakhstan and Gibraltar in September and October 2016.

Could the FCO please provide me with any details of the trips, including but not limited to any correspondence in preparation for the trip and any itinerary.

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 some information relevant to your request.

We will be releasing some information relevant to your request. However we will be withholding other information under s.27 (1) and s.40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find attached the information that the FCO can release to you. 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 our relations with Gibraltar and Kazakhstan. 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 Kazak and Gibraltarian Governments could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and Gibraltar and Kazakhstan. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and

promote UK interests through its relations with Gibraltar and Kazakhstan, 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.

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,



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.