



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

14 September 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0672-17

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 14 July 2017. In your request you asked;

With regards to technical assistance provided to the Government of Bahrain with the Causeway Institute for Peace-Building and Conflict Resolution (CIPCR), would you please:

- *confirm whether the CIPCR has received funding for projects in FY 2017/18, and if so please disclose the allocated budget*
- *disclose the funding spent on training the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD)*
- *disclose the number of workshops, training, meetings and other engagements between CIPCR and BIPD, broken down by date and location, from 2012 to present*
- *disclose the dates of Overseas Security and Justice Guidance Assessments conducted with regard to this project*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does hold information falling within the terms of your request.

The UK has been providing a range of technical, practical assistance to the Government of Bahrain since 2012. The range of assistance supports the Government of Bahrain's implementation of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and UN Universal Periodic Review recommendations. While we have previously funded projects from the Causeway Institute for Peace-Building and Conflict Resolution (CIPCR), there are no projects being funded this financial year 2017/18 from either CIPCR or the Baharin Institute of Political Development (BIPD).

In respect of your remaining questions, 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), concerning 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. We assess that the disclosure of certain details about UK-funded projects in Bahrain could 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, counter to 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



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