



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Europe Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

4 August 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0661-16

Thank you for your email of 9 July 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

The following statement was e-mailed to me today:

"The Government has responded to the petition you signed – "EU Referendum Rules triggering a 2nd EU Referendum".

Government responded:

The European Union Referendum Act received Royal Assent in December 2015, receiving overwhelming support from Parliament. The Act did not set a threshold for the result or for minimum turnout.

The EU Referendum Act received Royal Assent in December 2015. The Act was scrutinised and debated in Parliament during its passage and agreed by both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The Act set out the terms under which the referendum would take place, including provisions for setting the date, franchise and the question that would appear on the ballot paper. The Act did not set a threshold for the result or for minimum turnout.

As the Prime Minister made clear in his statement to the House of Commons on 27 June, the referendum was one of the biggest democratic exercises in British history with over 33 million people having their say. The Prime Minister and Government have been clear that this was a once in a generation vote and, as the Prime Minister has said, the decision must be respected. We must now prepare for the process to exit the EU and the Government is committed to ensuring the best possible outcome for the British people in the negotiations.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office"

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA):

(1) Please could you provide me with the name of the Director General (SCS Pay Band 3 level) command, to which the above statement was issued from (not the name of any individual, just the Division, Directorate or equivalent organisational name).

(2) Please could you provide me with the name of the Director (SCS Pay Band 2) command, to which the above statement was issued from (not the name of any individual, just the Directorate, Section, Unit or equivalent organisational name).

(3) Please could you confirm whether there is a record of a Minister giving clearance to the issue of the above statement, and if so, which Minister

(4) Please could you confirm the Civil Service grade equivalent level, to which the highest clearance was provided to issuing this statement, prior to Ministerial clearance

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 information relevant to your request.

The response to the e-petition was drafted and issued from Europe Directorate, part of the Economic and Consular Directorate General in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It was cleared by the then Minister for Europe, David Lidington. Prior to ministerial clearance and in line with standard practice it was cleared by an FCO Grade D7 (civil service equivalent Grade 6) official.

Yours sincerely,

Europe 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.