



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

International Organisations Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

11 May 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0359-17

Thank you for your email of 7 April 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Can I have an FOI activated for every communication between Matthew Rycroft's office and the Scottish Government regarding Nicola Sturgeon's trip to the UN. Including any response to David Foreman.

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.

Please find attached the information that the FCO can release to you. However, some of the information has been withheld under Section 40 – Personal Information and Section 38 – Health and Safety of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000

Section 40

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.

Section 38

Section 38(1)(a) relating to Health and Safety is a qualified exemption and as such we have considered the public interest test. In applying that test, we have taken into account the factors in favour of disclosure; in this case that releasing such information would

demonstrate openness and public accountability towards the support provided by the FCO to the Scottish Government officials during visits overseas. We balanced these against the grounds for non-disclosure. We felt that disclosure of details, including hotel locations and transport services during visits and future visits overseas by Scottish Government members could be used by others to pose a significant risk to those individuals' personal safety. There is a strong public interest in withholding information relating to past and future overseas visits, particularly where disclosure could endanger the safety of individuals. On balance we concluded that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Yours sincerely,

International Organisations 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.