



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

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

05 April 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0048-17

Thank you for your email of 13 January asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Copies of any and all recorded information held by the FCO about the visit to Bahrain by former Prime Minister David Cameron in January 2017. Please include emails, minutes, briefing notes, reports, evaluations and daily notes, as well as dates and attendees of meetings.

Please also include how the trip was funded (from which budget), the total funding cost and a breakdown of expenditure.

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 visit to Bahrain by former Prime Minister David Cameron in January 2017 was a private visit funded by Mr Cameron himself. We do not hold any information on how much the trip cost or a breakdown of any expenditure.

The information that we can release to you is enclosed as a digest. However, some information has been withheld under section 27 (International Relations) and section 40 (personal information)

S27 is a qualified exemption and requires the FCO to consider the public interest in releasing or withholding the information. The effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. This relationship of trust allows for the free and frank exchange of information on the understanding that it will be treated in confidence. If the UK does not respect such confidences, its ability to protect and promote UK interest through international relations will be prejudiced. Bahrain may be more reluctant to share sensitive information with the UK Government in future and may be less

likely to respect the confidentiality of information supplied by the UK Government, to the detriment of UK interests. For all these reasons, we consider that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information covered by section 27 (1)(d).

The remainder 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.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

Yours sincerely,

Head of 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.