



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Export Control Joint Unit**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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18 August 2017

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0706-17**

Thank you for your email of 25 July asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act about the Export Controls Joint Unit (ECJU) and UK arms export licensing processes with regard to Saudi Arabia. In the period 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016:*

*1) How many times were concerns under Criterion 2 of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria raised about exports of military technology and equipment to Saudi Arabia, by officials from which departments?*

*2) How many times was Saudi Arabia discussed at the weekly refusals meeting regarding arms export licences?*

*3) How many times were licensing decisions regarding Saudi Arabia referred to Ministers, and which Ministers were consulted?*

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.

During our case-by-case assessment of export licences we routinely consider whether any Criteria are engaged, and as part of this assessment we consider if any Criterion 2 risks apply. Between 1 July and 30 September 2016, FCO officials conducted Criterion 2 assessments on 27 applications to export military technology and equipment to Saudi Arabia.

During the same period, no export licence applications for Saudi Arabia were discussed at the weekly refusals meetings.

During the same period, licensing decisions regarding Saudi Arabia were referred to FCO Ministers twice; these decisions related to six export licence applications, and the Foreign Secretary was consulted on both occasions.

Yours sincerely,

Export Control Joint Unit



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