



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

06 September 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0366-17

Thank you for your email of 12 April asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I would like to request the following documents from the FCO:

- *Annual Ambassadorial reports (or their equivalent, should they have been renamed over time) from the Embassy in Kuwait City from 1993-2015*
- *Valedictory Ambassador reports/notes/letters/despatches from the Embassy in Kuwait*
 - o William Fullerton in 1996*
 - o Graham Boyce in 1999*
 - o Richard Muir in 2002*
 - o Chris Wilton in 2005*
 - o Michael Aron in 2010*
 - o Frank Baker in 2014*
- *Annual reports from the defence attaché at the Embassy in Kuwait from 1993-2015*

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. Some of the information has been withheld using section 27 – international relations. Section 27 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test.

Section 27(1)(a) of the FOIA recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and other states if it was disclosed. The application of s.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 Kuwait. However, s.27(1)(a) recognises that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the United Kingdom does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be hampered, which will not be in the public interest. The disclosure of this information detailing our relationship with the Government of Kuwait could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and State of Kuwait. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations

with Kuwait, which would not be in the public interest. For these reasons we consider that, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Yours sincerely,

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.