



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

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

04 April 2017

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0056-17

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

Could I please be provided with:

- 1. Copies of all emails and other paper and electronic correspondence, including their attachments, sent to and from Mexico City British Embassy with respect to training of Mexico's local and/or State police, as well as law enforcement training given to other Mexican organizations, be they corporate or non-governmental, between January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2016.*
- 2. I request that your search encompass, but not be limited to, training sessions offered on 27-28 August 2015, 16-17 November 2015, and 19 November 2015.*

Your reply is requested in a .pdf, .doc Word file, or other machine-readable format.

Please remember to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure, as stipulated by Regulation 12(2).

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.

Regulation 12(2) applies to Environmental Information Regulations 2004 not the Freedom of Information Act 2000, though presumption in favour of disclosure is one of the principles behind the Act.

We have extracted information in scope of your request and collated it into a digest and provided relevant documents.

Some of the information within the scope of your request is exempt under Section 27(1) of the FOIA – international relations. Section 27(1)(a) recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the UK and other states if disclosed. The application of Section 27(1)(a) requires us to consider public interest arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. The disclosure of some of the information held could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and Mexico. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests

through its relations with Mexico, 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.

Some of the information you have requested is exempt under section 40(2) of the FOIA. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, among other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the FCO is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Some information is exempt under section 43(2) of the Act as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. This exemption requires the application of a public interest test.

The use of this exemption was carefully considered. The factors in favour of disclosure of this information including the general public interest and greater transparency and accountability, were carefully weighed against the general need to allow the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to seek value for money competitively and without fear of disclosure of sensitive commercial information when tendering for future contracts. In this case after such consideration we believe that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in its release.

Yours sincerely,

Caribbean, Central America and Mexico 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.