



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

West Africa Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

19 May 2017

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request: 0284-17

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 21 March 2017. In your request you asked for:

“information, not already disclosed, that the FCO holds on meetings and correspondence between the UK High Commission and staff of Shell’s parent company, which was then known as Royal Dutch/Shell, as well as its subsidiaries, including but not limited to Shell Petroleum Development Company or SPDC. I am requesting information that includes but is not limited to:

- *A two-day tour of the Niger Delta by the UK High Commissioner, Sir Thorold Masefield and his wife, accompanied by Shell staff, in June 1994.*
- *Meetings between Sir Thorold Masefield and the Managing Director of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDEC), Brian Anderson on 25 July 1994 and 6 April, 1995.”*

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.

We have identified the information we hold within the scope of your request on meetings and correspondence between the UK High Commission and staff of Shell’s parent company, which was then known as Royal Dutch/Shell, as well as its subsidiaries, including but not limited to Shell Petroleum Development Company or SPDC.

The information found that was relevant to your request was held by our archives in hard copy only.

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.

Yours sincerely,

West Africa 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.