



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Pakistan and Afghanistan
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

22 February 2017

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0103-17

Thank you for your email of 24 January asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked for:

*(i) A copy of e-grams sent from an international donors meeting in Tokyo January 2002
In respect of point (1): A copy of e-grams sent from an international donors meeting in Tokyo in January 2002.*

It was an international conference on aid for Afghanistan held in Tokyo on 21-22 January 2002. The delegation was headed by Clare Short but Sir Robert Cooper, the UK Special Representative for Afghanistan also attended - I am not sure of the other FCO officials present. I would imagine Sir Robert Cooper may have sent the e-grams but I could be wrong. I am specifically looking for e-grams sent back from the conference that mentions counter narcotics and or a summary of the Tokyo conference.

More broadly, I would like to ascertain why the UK was appointed G8 lead nation on counter narcotics in Afghanistan and who made the decision. I know that the decision was taken between January and April 2002, when Sir David Reddway attended a G8 conference in Geneva to confirm the UK's commitment. Specifically, the questions I think may help are: what role did the FCO play in that process? Was the FCO consulted on this issue? Did the FCO play any part in the commissioning of this decision? If so, in what context. If not, when did they find out the decision and who told them.

Is it possible to advise the best way to ascertain this information?

We have found the reporting egram from the Tokyo in 2002, Annex A. I have also looked for reporting between January and April around how the UK became the G8 lead on CN in Afghanistan. I have found an egram from Kabul to FCO which mentions that the UK was assigned coordination of the long-term development of CN capability at Geneva, Annex B.

Some of the information within the scope of your request is exempt under Sections 27(1)(a), which recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and other states if it was disclosed. In this case, the release of information relating to internal discussions within the Afghan political system could harm our relations with the current Afghan government. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with Afghanistan, 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,

Afghanistan Unit



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.