



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

North America Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

20 February 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0085/2017

Thank you for your email of 22 January asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please provide me with copies of all reports which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made or received, regarding the Inauguration Day of the 45th President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, on 20th January 2017, especially with regard to the size of the crowd who attended on Washington DC's National Mall to watch Mr Trump take his oath of office.

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 carefully considered if we can release this information and conducted the appropriate Public Interest Tests. We can release some of the information and this is attached as a digest of information to be released.

However, we do not intend to release the other information relevant to your request as we judge it is exempt from release under the following exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

- section 27 (1) (a) (c) (d) (International relations);
- section 40 (2) and (3) (Personal information).

Section 27 (1) (a) (c) and (d) International Relations

Some of the information you have requested is being withheld under section 27 (1) (a) (c) and (d) of the FOIA. Section 27 (1) (a) (c) and (d) provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the relations between the United Kingdom and any other state, the interests of the UK abroad, or the promotion or protection by the United Kingdom of its interests abroad.

In applying section 27, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing it. Factors in favour of disclosure include the strong public interest in transparency and accountability. Disclosure would also increase public knowledge of relations with the United States. Factors against disclosure include the strong public interest in ensuring that the FCO is able to conduct the UK's international relations effectively and protect UK interests abroad. The effective conduct of the UK's international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence with other governments and international organisations. To do this there must be good working relationships with other governments and international organisations based on confidence and trust. This relationship of trust allows for the free and frank exchange of information on the understanding that it will be treated in confidence. If the UK does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to act as a significant player in the international arena, and protect and promote UK interests through international relations, will be hampered. Other governments and international organisations may be more reluctant to share information with the UK Government in future, and may be less likely to respect the confidentiality of information supplied by the UK Government to them, to the detriment of UK interests.

For these reasons, we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Section 40 (2) and (3) Personal Information

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 FOIA 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 section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

Yours sincerely,

North America 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.

FOI 0085-17: DIGEST OF INFORMATION TO BE RELEASED

	TYPE	CONTENT	COMMENT
1	E-mail	<p>Report within FCO. Subject: INTERVIEW SUMMARY - Donald Trump - Sir Peter Westmacott - Sky News - Friday 20 January 2017 (redacted under S40).</p> <p>Sir Peter Westmacott, former British ambassador to the US: <i>The inauguration ceremony?</i> The crowds, the enthusiasm will be the same. The thing that will be different this time is the huge numbers upset at the result. Since his election he hasn't done what most president elects do - reach out to those who didn't vote for him. That is why his approval ratings are at 40%, as opposed to Obama's 70%. But let's see. He may turn out to be a more inclusive president than many predict. <i>His tweets, his knee-jerk reactions?</i> I am in diplomacy. Words matter. Going after John Lewis on Martin Luther King weekend was strange. You can't reduce foreign policy to 140 characters. This is not what we're used to. <i>Will the special relationship change? A good post-Brexit agreement?</i> It is good for Downing Street for Trump to be so supportive of Brexit. it is an important vote of confidence. Theresa May is keen to get an early visit into the Oval Office. We need to reinforce the bilateral relationship at a time when we will need it the most, post-Brexit. I hope we remain faithful to our policy and values as we engage with this administration. But Trump's enthusiasm for the UK can only be good for Britain (Sky 0938 i/v).</p>	20 January 2017
2	E-mail	<p>Report within FCO</p> <p>Subject: US TRADE: INAUGURATION & TRADE</p> <p>The email refers to the contents of the published articles:</p> <p>https://www.whitehouse.gov/inaugural-address</p> <p>https://www.whitehouse.gov/trade-deals-working-all-americans</p>	20 January 2017