



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

08 March 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0031-17

Thank you for your email of 3 January asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

With regards to British training of Bahraini security forces in small arms and sniper rifles, in December 2016, as reported on here: <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/uk-troops-trains-bahrain-security-forces-despite-theresa-may-promise-417497573> please confirm the following:

Please provide a copy of any Overseas Security and Justice Assessments (OSJAs) were conducted with regards to this training and related projects.

Please indicate whether ministers were consulted as part of those assessments, and if so provide relevant details, so far as possible

Please can you clarify the nature and cost of the training

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. I apologise for the delay in sending this response.

The training which the article refers to is an MOD exercise, Pearl Dagger. This is an annual exercise which first took place in 2014. The exercise which took place last December was the third of its kind. The exercise takes place between the Royal Navy, Royal Marine Commandos, the Royal Bahraini Naval Force and their Marines and focuses on capacity building, bilateral cooperation and low level tactical training at sea, on the shore and in the desert. There was no sniper training during the Pearl Dagger exercise. Following the Prime Minister's visit a 'Distinguished Visitors Day' took place, which was attended by senior UK

and Bahraini military personnel. This included static displays and demonstrations, including a static display of sniper equipment.

The exercise was conducted over 3½ weeks with 137 UK personnel participating and cost approximately £113,000 to run the exercise.

The HMG Overseas Security and Justice Assistance Guidance (OSJA) is a tool used to ensure that security and justice assistance provided by the UK to a foreign government meets our human rights obligations and supports our values. As this training was not provided on behalf of the FCO we do not hold an OSJA within our records. The MOD is responsible for the OSJA process for such training. Again, as the exercise was carried out by another government department there was no need for FCO Ministers to be consulted, even though; FCO Ministers take an active interest in our relations with Bahrain.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department



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