



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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

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

09 January 2018

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1189-17**

Thank you for your email of 12 December 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*A list of all contacts that UK diplomatic posts in Venezuela have had with tobacco manufacturers, since the revised guidelines for overseas posts on support to the tobacco industry were finalised in December 2013, broken down by name of the tobacco manufacturer, date, purpose of the contact and type of assistance provided and with the job title and location of the person who provided the assistance.*

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. However, 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.

Please find attached the information that the FCO can release to you.

Yours sincerely,

South Americas Department

Americas Directorate



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.