

FOI 1106-17

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 16 March 2017 09:43
To: [FCO London]
Cc: [FCO officials]
Subject: Visa requirement

Hi [Redacted]

Further to our discussion earlier, I have checked with the [Redacted] and he is quite insistent that you should have a work visa for coming to Venezuela. If anything happens here and you are required to speak to law enforcement they will ask who you are if they have no record of you being in the country for official purposes.

He is happy for you not to be on the dip passport as you wouldn't have accreditation, however the visa is a must if you can get it. He is currently contacting his counterpart in the Venezuelan consulate in London to seek advice and speed this through.

Regards

[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 16 March 2017 13:58
To:[BE Caracas, FCO London]
Cc: [FCO Officials]
Subject: RE: Visa requirement

Dear [Redacted]

We're looking forward to seeing you here. As [Redacted] says below, it is better that you come in on a visa. In the past, we have been able to obtain these quickly and painlessly from the Venezuelan Embassy in London. I have written to my opposite number there to say that you are likely to be applying on 27 March (which I understand is when you will be back in London) and asking for confirmation of the type of visa you should apply for (diplomatic or business) and that the visa should be ready by 31 March. If you are able to, I recommend that you submit the visa with your diplomatic passport; but if this is difficult your ordinary passport (with the stamp that I have seen mentioning that you work for HM Diplomatic Service) should be sufficient.

Best wishes,
[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 18 May 2017 00:14
To: [FCO London]
Cc: [FCO Officials]
Subject: Fwd: NV for MFA: Travel advice

Dear [Redacted]

As per the [Redacted], we have sent a factual NV this afternoon to the Venezuelan MFA outlining the TA changes. Please ensure you send a note ASAP to the Venezuelan Embassy in London too. You might include the fact that the change is in line with many other countries' TA.

Thanks, [Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 18 May 2017 14:24
To: [FCO London]
CC: [FCO Officials]
Subject: RE: Venezuela travel advice map

Many thanks for forwarding, [Redacted] and I have looked, and these maps are perfect, so I think we're ready to go with the new TA. As soon as it's live, we'll inform the British community here (a separate NV has already gone to the MFA, and SAMD are telling the Venezuelan Embassy in London.

Thanks,
[Redacted]

From: [British Council]
Sent: 19 June 2017 11:58
To: [BE Caracas]
Subject: [Redacted] Working Visa
Importance: High

Dear both,

As mentioned to you last week, [Redacted] is going to London to get her visa. In the last two years she has been getting a Business visa and the argument was she was in Venezuela as an ELT Consultant for the Ministry of Education project **not** as Teaching Centre Manager. This has now changed since the Government has approved a **Working Visa** for [Redacted] So we would dearly appreciate if you can put a word to the Venezuelan Embassy in London so [Redacted] gets this visa with no problem.

The argument for a Working visa is that her work and her experience under the consultancy was outstanding so British Council decided to give her a job as teaching Centre Manager. As you can see from the document, SAIME sent instructions to London to this effect on 20th April. [Redacted] will be at the Venezuelan Embassy in London to get her visa stamped the w/b 17th July.

Thanks a lot in advance for your help.

[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 19 June 2017 18:00
To: [British Council, FCO Official]
Subject: RE: [Redacted] Working Visa

Thank you, [Redacted]. I have written to my opposite number at the Venezuelan Embassy in London, bccing you, asking for his support for the application. I'll forward his response when I get it.

Best wishes,
[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 15 July 2015 21:55
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [FCO Officials]
Subject: Venezuelan interest in collaboration with UK on climate issues

Dear [Redacted]

You may remember being extraordinarily kind and supportive to me when I was charged with putting together the FCO Climate Change Adaptation Plan at rather short notice some years ago. As you can see, I have now been appointed [Redacted]; it may not require too much of a leap of imagination to spot that I'm writing to ask for advice and possible help once again.

In brief, the Venezuelan Ministry of Ecosocialism, the newly-formed lead Ministry for Climate Change, which is tasked with producing their INDC, has expressed interest in collaborating with the UK in a number of possible climate-related areas, including meteorological disaster early warning.

I believe this isn't the first approach the Venezuelans have made. I understand that in my predecessor's time, an attempt at Met office to Met office collaboration progressed to the point where a UK delegation was preparing to visit Caracas, but the necessary political clearances apparently failed to materialise and the visit was called off. [Redacted]

But I hope that, given Venezuela's significance as a fossil carbon reservoir, as custodian of a significant part of the Amazon-Orinoco forest, as owner of the Caribbean's longest coastline, and as a developing country with a [Redacted] audible voice in the region and the wider South, consideration could be given to at least exploring the possibility of a reboot.

For me , the key difference this time is that the approach is coming from the political level so has passed necessary approval hoops. And is being led by Rocio Maneiro, the Venezuelan Ambassador in London, an experienced bureaucrat, [Redacted] and who is working closely with me on a number of initiatives to thicken bilateral relations.

When Rocio approached me for advice on this, I suggested that she seek an initial meeting in the FCO with Sir David King, whom she met when he visited Caracas last autumn, to give her a sense of the UK's broad interests and capabilities; to which Sir David has kindly agreed. But it would obviously be very helpful if we could also indicate that the Met Office would be open to an exploratory meeting. And to give her a contact with whom she could follow up.

I hope this makes sense; do let me know if there is any more background you would like. If helpful I could easily phone one afternoon to amplify.

With kind regards and very best wishes

[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 11 August 2015 22:26
To: [Redacted] [FCO London]
Cc: [FCO Officials]
Subject: RE: Venezuelan interest in collaboration with UK on climate issues

Dear [Redacted]

To follow up on my email below, David King has now seen the Venezuelan Ambassador to UK and given her a steer; we have at this end reached out to INAMEH.

So I was wondering whether the Met Office can yet confirm interest in principle in receiving Ambassador Rocio Maneiro for a discussion of how to take the Venezuelan interest forward?

I head off on leave tomorrow; [Redacted]

Very best wishes

[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 23 August 2017 21:56
To: [British Council]
Cc: [FCO Official]
Subject: RE: Visa requirements for Ciaran Devane's visit

Dear [Redacted]

Thanks for your enquiry below. Whilst UK citizens may enter Venezuela without a visa, the Embassy suggests that official visitors do get a visa. Since Sir Ciaran Devane is an HMG official visitor, either the British Council Travel Centre (assuming there is one!) or the FCO Travel Centre should be able to advise on the process and apply for the visa. I am copying to [Redacted]

[Redacted]: the CEO of the British Council, Sir Ciaran Devane, is due to make an official visit to Venezuela in early October, and I'd like to help him and his team apply for visas (he will be staying at the Residence). [Redacted] grateful if you could advise whether they can use the FCO Travel Centre or whether there is an alternative route. From Caracas, we can tip off the Venezuelan Embassy to expect the visa requests; as far as I know, there is no need for a formal letter, but if necessary we can do one here or you can in London.

From: [BE Caracas]

Sent: 25 August 2015 20:46

To: [Met Office]

Subject: FW: Venezuelan interest in collaboration with UK on climate issues

Hi [Redacted]

My last communication on this issue is that [Redacted] wrote to Rocio Maneiro, the Venezuelan Ambassador in the UK and gave her your contact details so you could agree how to coordinate agendas for a meeting.

I wanted to know if you had been reached out by the Venezuelan Embassy at the UK? Or if there have been any further news on this issue?

Many thanks!

[Redacted]

From: [Met Office]

Sent: 26 August 2015 03:52

To: [BE Caracas]

Subject: RE: Venezuelan interest in collaboration with UK on climate issues

[Redacted]

[Redacted] send Ms Maneiro an email on August 14th to serve as an introduction, however we haven't heard anything from Ms Maneiro yet.

Yours

[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 29 August 2017 11:47
To: [BE Bogota]
Cc: [BE Caracas]
Subject: FW: A REQUEST FROM LONDON

Dear [Redacted]

Please see below. In view of the humanitarian nature of the request below, we'd be grateful for anything you can do to speed up review of these applications and let us know if there is a problem with either [Redacted]. As background, the Venezuelan embassy in London very rarely ask for our assistance in this way; and they react well to our requests to turn visas around quickly (eg for HMA Caracas-designate last week).

[Redacted]

From: [Venezuela Embassy in UK]
Sent: 29 August 2017 12:38
To: [BE Caracas]
Subject: A REQUEST FROM LONDON

Dear [Redacted]

I hope that you are well and that your work at the Embassy is fine. I am writing briefly this time to inform you about a case involving a Venezuelan citizen living in the UK, of whom Ambassador Maneiro was informed last night. [Redacted]

His parents are now in the process of getting their visas. However Ambassador Maneiro is wondering if there is a possibility to make the processing of their requests a little bit more expedite, due to the characteristics of their case. Their names are:

[Redacted]

I hope you have good day [Redacted]

Best regards,

[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 30 August 2017 16:42
To: [BE Caracas] [BE Bogota]
Cc: [BE Caracas, FCO Officials]
Subject: RE: A REQUEST FROM LONDON

Thanks, [Redacted] I've just had this from the Venezuelan Embassy in London, so they should be on your systems by close today:

"Today one of my colleagues went to see [Redacted]. She just came back and informed me that [Redacted] told her that his parents have an appointment for today. We do not exactly the time of the appointment. It's what we know so far. I hope this will help."

Many thanks,
[Redacted]

From: [FCO Official]
Sent: 02 October 2017 15:58
To: [FCO London]
Cc: [FCO Officials]
Subject: Visit to the UK: FM Arreaza [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Venezuelan Embassy confirm **Minister Duncan/FM Arreaza meeting: 15:15, Tuesday, 10 October**

Regards,

[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 23 October 2015 14:30
To: [Met Office]
Cc: [BE Caracas]
Subject: RE: Venezuelan interest in collaboration with UK on climate issues

Hi [Redacted]

I understand Maneiro and [Redacted] met on Monday 19th. I will be meeting with the environment Ministry next week and I'm doing an effort to put everyone at Venezuelan government on the same page and try to move forward to a concrete project between INAMEH and METoffice.

Could you give me some details of the meeting and if there are any action points resulting?

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Met Office]
Sent: 27 October 2015 04:50
To: [BE Caracas]
Cc: [BE Caracas, Met Office]
Subject: RE: Venezuelan interest in collaboration with UK on climate issues

[Redacted]

Unfortunately Maneiro was unwell last week, however her Minister Counsellor (Alfonso D'Santiago) visited the Met Office and met with [Redacted].

The meeting included a great deal of discussion about Met Office weather and climate capabilities, and Mr D'Santiago shared a selection of areas where the Venezuelan national meteorological service would be interested in developing more collaboration with the Met Office.

Mr D'Santiago took an action to work with the ambassador on a letter to the Met Office outlining more clearly possible areas for collaboration. We will then review this to identify where we can practically provide support. In order to set up any formal partnership there would probably then be a technical meeting between the Met Office and INAMEH to discuss capabilities and requirements.

Please let me know if you'd like any further information.

Yours

[Redacted]

From: [FCO London]
Sent: 13 November 2017 07:10
To: [BE Caracas, FCO London]
Subject: Visas

Sent on behalf of [Redacted]

Hi [Redacted]

Just to inform you that [Redacted] will be submitting visa applications this week for his and [Redacted] visas for the rescheduled [Redacted] visit in February. [Redacted] would be grateful if you could contact whoever it is that you speak with.

[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 15 November 2017 18:34
To: [FCO London]
Cc: [FCO Officials]
Subject: RE: [Redacted] visit to Venezuela [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Many thanks: excellent news! Might I suggest the week of 15 January if that works for you? The PUS is due to visit Caracas in the week of 29 January, and we'd like to keep the week of the 22nd relatively free to prepare for that.

I usually recommend that visitors get a visa, especially if they are likely to travel outside Caracas and have meetings with local officials. We have [Redacted] a good relationship with the Venezuelan Embassy in London, and the DHM, Alfonso D'Santiago, has ensured that visa requests have been dealt with quickly. Please let me know if you would like me to drop him a line (though you may already be in contact with him).

[Redacted]

Best wishes,
[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 22 November 2017 13:40
To: [FCO London]
Subject: FW: Visas

Dear [Redacted]

Just to confirm that I have tipped off my opposite number in the Venezuelan Embassy in London, [Redacted]. We look forward to seeing you in February.

Best wishes,
[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 29 November 2017 14:40
To: [FCO London]
Cc: [BE Caracas]
Subject: REQUEST: Status - compassionate circumstance

Dear [Redacted]

Two (2) Venezuelans have applied for a visa in order to visit a sick relative [Redacted] in the UK – please see application numbers below [Redacted]. Would you please inform us the status of their applications? Given the circumstances, do you think they could get a decision sooner on compassionate grounds?

The Venezuelan Embassy in the UK has contacted us to request our support. We would be very pleased if you could help us.

Their visa application numbers are [Redacted].

Many thanks in advance for all the support you can provide. Feel free to write if you need further information.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

From: [BE Caracas]
Sent: 29 November 2017 19:38
To: [FCO London]
Cc: [BE Caracas]
Subject: FW: REQUEST: Status - compassionate circumstance

Dear [Redacted]

Please find below more details:

- [Redacted] applying from Venezuela
- [Redacted] applying from Spain (presumably Madrid)

As one of them is applying from Spain, would you please indicate further steps to obtain her application status/speed up the process?

Many thanks.

Best,

[Redacted]