



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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Margarida Silva
CEO
Rue d'Edimbourg 26,
1050 Brussels, Belgium

13 September 2017

Dear Ms. Silva

Your Freedom Of Information Request: 0681-17

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 4 July 2017. In your request you asked for: "*documents which contain the following information:*

- *the rules in place to screen and manage potential conflicts of interest in the previous employment of incoming officials and post-employment for departing officials of the Permanent Representation;*
- *procedures in place to assess and limit potential conflicts of interest in the previous employment of incoming officials and post-employment for departing officials of the Permanent Representation;*
- *the number of officials who have sought advice or approval for new roles after leaving the Permanent Representation since January 2016 and information on their new roles*".

In our letter of 15 August, we confirmed that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request but that we had not yet reached a decision on where the balance of public interest lies on the exemptions that we were considering in relation to your request. We have still not yet reached a final decision, and apologise for this, but we hope to be able to provide you with a substantive response shortly.

As mentioned in our previous response, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the FOI Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days, and a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case. We do, of course, aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including in cases where we need to consider where the public interest lies in respect of a request for exempt information.

In your case we estimate that it will take an additional 20 days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by

11 October 2017. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The specific exemptions which we are considering in relation to your request are: section 24(1) – safeguarding national security; section 35 – formulation of government policy; and section 38(1)(b) – endanger the safety of any individual.

If you are unhappy with the service you are receiving and wish to make a complaint, please write to the FOI and DPA Team at Room K4.04, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH, or by e-mail to foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk. Please note that you have 40 working days from the date of this letter in which to submit a request for an internal review.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Please contact me if you have any queries about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Political Section, UKRep



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