



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Information Rights Team
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Website: www.fco.gov.uk/foi

European Schools

By email: ask+request-309-b263a614@asktheeu.org

12 February 2013

Dear European Schools,

Freedom of Information (FOI) Request Ref: 0054-13

Thank you for your email of 15 January 2013 asking for documents that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds on all minutes and papers related to the preparation, attendance at and following up from the UK delegation attendance at the European Schools (EURSC) Board of Governors meeting on 3 – 5 December 2012. I have responded to this request under the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the FCO and UK Representation in Brussels does hold information relevant to your request. However, I wish to advise you the information cannot be disclosed for the reasons given below.

Some of the withheld information is personal data relating to third parties. It is our view that disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act therefore apply. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which we think would be breached by disclosure in this case. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. We do not therefore have to apply the public interest test.

I would like to suggest that, since the FCO and the UK Representation to Brussels do not lead on European Schools, you may wish to discuss this issue with the Department for Education.

I hope you are satisfied with this reply. However, if you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the Information Rights Team at The Old

Admiralty Building, Room SG 120, London, SW1A 2PA. E-mail: dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk.
You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have 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.

We continually strive to improve our service, so we would welcome your feedback and comments. If you would like to provide feedback on our service, please email our Information Rights Team, again at: dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk

You can also find out more about previous FOI replies published on our website at [Publications - Inside Government - GOV.UK](#).

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin Norman

Benjamin Norman
EU Institutions Team
Europe 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.