



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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Natacha Cingotti

By email: ask+request-425-77006ba9@asktheeu.org

19 June 2013

Dear Natacha Cingotti,

Freedom of Information (FOI) Request Ref: 0361-13

Thank you for your email of 23 April asking for documents that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the UK Permanent Representation to the EU holds in relation to contacts between members of the Permanent Representation of the UK to the EU and oil companies in relation to MIFID (the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on markets in financial instruments repealing Directive 2004/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council) since 1 January 2012.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested. I can confirm that the UK Representation in Brussels holds information relevant to your request.

The FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the 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 **17 July 2013**. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The specific exemption which applies in relation to your request is Section 27 (International relations).

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, Room K4.10-13, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. 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.

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.