



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Political Section
UK Representation to the EU
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12 April 2018

Ms Vicki Cann

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REF: 0370-18

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 March 2018 in which you said:

"With reference to the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

How many meetings have employees of the UK Permanent Representation to the EU had with representatives of companies, organisations and other stakeholders, during the last 12 months?

I would like to request a list of these meetings: who was present at the meeting, including the names of organisations/ lobbyists presents, as well as the date of the meeting, and the subject matter discussed".

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Your request as presently formulated is widely-framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information, if indeed all the information requested is available. Gathering the information would require the vast majority of UKREP staff (those who have external meetings) to go through their records for the past 12 months. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request. You may therefore wish to refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit.

It may be that if you were to amend your requests, for example, by narrowing the scope to cover a specific sector, we may be able to help you. However, even if you can narrow your request, I cannot guarantee that we would be able to assist you.

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 FOI and DPA Team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room K4.14, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.imd@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.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Political Section, UKREP



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.