



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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Mr John Simpson

By e-mail: <mailto:request-12709-@>

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Dear Mr Simpson,

Freedom Of Information Request 0438-09

Thank you for your letter to the Freedom of Information team in which you asked:

"Can you please confirm if the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or British Embassies around the world attempt to inform foreign press when mistakes are made about the United Kingdom and its government.

In particular, does our embassy in the United States of America ever seek to correct American press when they incorrectly call Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the "Queen of England". There has not been a "Queen of England" for over 300 years since the formation of the Kingdom of Great Britain. Whilst this may have been allowed to continue in the past, in the 21st century with the growing separatist threat in Scotland and Wales how can this department responsible for representing the British people overseas allow such mistakes to continue which cause deep offence and aid the separatist cause without even trying to educate foreign press or correct them?

If the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not prepared to correct such major international organisations which should know better, Who is responsible??"

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) provides a legal right to request any recorded information held by a public authority. However, we believe the request you have made does not fall under the terms of FOIA. It is our conclusion your enquiry should be treated as "business as usual". We have provided a response to your enquiry below.

I can confirm that when the FCO, and our Posts overseas, come across obvious and serious factual inaccuracies in the reporting of the mainstream media we will make efforts to inform and correct journalists or their editors where appropriate. This will be handled by the London Press Office for UK media, and by the local Embassy or High Commission for media overseas. That said, we simply do not have the resource

capacity available to actively search the world's media for all inaccuracies or errors, concerning references to the United Kingdom.

When asked about UK life we direct enquirers, both from the Public and the Press, to the "*About the UK*" section of our Embassy websites. This section provides information on many aspects of the UK, including the Royal Family. You can view this information on the Washington Embassy website at:

<http://ukinusa.fco.gov.uk/en/aboutuk/peoplepolitics/lawspolitical-system/theroyal-family>.

I hope this addresses your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

The Information Rights Team

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office