



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

North Africa Team
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

www.fco.gov.uk

22 September 2009

M Bimmler
whatdotheyknow.com

By e-mail: request-17694-19eb9071@whatdotheyknow.com

Our reference: FOI 0738-09

Dear M Bimmler

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your e-mail of 5 September asking for:

... access to all records held by the fCO in connection with the negotiations of a Prisoner Transfer Agreement with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

If ... too large ... restrict ... to documents created in December 2007.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some 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 this case, however, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies.

In your case we estimate that it will take up to an additional 20 working days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 21 October. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The specific exemptions which apply in relation to your request are:

Section 27: International Relations
Section 35: Formulation of Government policy

Section 42: Legal Professional Privilege

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

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me at the above address. Please note any request for an internal review must be submitted within 40 working days from the date our response was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane, Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Emily

Open Government Liaison Officer
North Africa Team



Data Protection Act 1998

The FCO processes personal data as notified to the Information Commissioner (www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) for the purpose of working for the UK's interests in a safe, just and prosperous world. Such personal data may be shared with other UK Government Departments and public authorities.