



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Americas Directorate**  
WH2.323  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

Tel: 020 7 008 2606  
Fax: 020 7 008 2476  
[www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

Ms Maire Daley

**By email:**

[request-22574-21673b8e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-22574-21673b8e@whatdotheyknow.com)

2 December 2009

Dear Ms Daley,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: 0937-09**

I write in relation to your Freedom of Information Act request dated 04 November 2009 in which you requested;

“any documentation, correspondence or related material detailing the financial cost of British government counter narcotics assistance to the Colombian government annually for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008.”

I can confirm the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does hold information relevant to your request. This letter serves as a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

We do not provide any details of our counter-narcotics work in Colombia. To do so could endanger the lives of personnel involved in this work, and our decision has been upheld by the Parliamentary Ombudsman. The information is exempt under section 23(1) of the Act (information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with

security matters). Section 23 (1) is an absolute exemption and does not require the application of the public interest test in favour of disclosure.

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. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of our response.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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 me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours faithfully

*Catherine Shaw*

Assistant Desk Officer Andean Section  
South America Team  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office