



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Ministerial Support Unit
King Charles Street
SW1A 2AH

7 January 2009

Mika Minio-Paluello
PLATFORM

By e-mail: request-5157-b1068f62@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Minio-Paluello,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST: FOI 1010-08

Thank you for your e-mailed Freedom of Information request of 22 December 2008, in which you asked for a list of meetings held between FCO Ministers or civil servants and Royal Dutch Shell employees during 2007 and 2008, including a list of those in attendance during these meetings and a list of files, memos or correspondence relating to these meetings.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provisions 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 days 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. 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 would be useful, for instance, if you were to request details of meetings just with Ministers, or particular geographical regions or countries, or specify which Royal Dutch Shell employees.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review, you should write to the FOI - Information Rights Team. 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 the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

Open Government Liaison Officer
Ministerial Support Unit



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.