



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

10 February 2010

North America Team
King Charles Street
WH 323
London
SW1A 2AH

Mr Craig-Best

By email: request-7850-9e8eb166@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Craig-Best,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE: 0108-09.

You requested an internal review of our decision, conveyed to you in our email of 17 April 2009, not to disclose certain information we hold relating to “copies of the FCO briefings supplied to former FCO Minister Kim Howells in relation to his visit to Colombia in late 2007”.

It has come to my attention that the response to your internal review has not been issued, despite concluding our assessment some time ago. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to your internal review now.

Your internal review was carried out by a senior Desk Officer in the Americas Directorate in the FCO. He conducted a comprehensive internal review, including all files held in our archives. He was satisfied a reasonable search for information was carried out in relation to your request; that the factors considered during the application of the Public Interest Test were properly recorded and explained; that the reply was cleared at the appropriate level of authority and that the exemptions were explained to you and applied in accordance with the exemption guidance available from the Ministry of Justice website.

For the internal review, he re-assessed the information relating to your original request, carefully considering this against the exemptions contained within the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

He concluded that the exemptions S23(1) (Information supplied by or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters), S26(1) (Defence), S27(1) (International Relations), S40(2) and (3) (Personal Information) and S41 (1)(b) (Information Provided in Confidence) were

correctly engaged and applied, and that the relatively small amount of information withheld under these exemptions should continue to be withheld. He considered whether or not it would be possible to expand on our reasons as to why the information remains sensitive, and regret that we could not do so without going into the specifics of the information withheld. However, he was satisfied that the information should remain withheld in accordance to the FOI Act.

If you are not content with the outcome of this 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.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Team
Information Management Group