



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Knowledge Management Dept
Hanslope Park
Hanslope
Milton Keynes MK19 7BH

R Williams

By email to: request-536951-a03f0e28@whatdotheyknow.com

12 March 2019

Dear R Williams,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST – REF: 0164-19

Thank you for your e-mail of 5 December requesting access, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to information held by the FCO. You asked for:

"I am attempting to locate information provided to the UK by the other State Parties under the Protocol on Notification and Exchange of Information of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Specifically the information required to be provided under the Protocol as at the date of the Treaty, 19 November 1990 (as referenced by Section VII of the Protocol). I've not been able to locate this information in the National Archives and assume that it therefore continues to be held by the FCO. I am therefore requesting under the Freedom of Information Act copies of the formal notifications provided to the UK deemed valid at the signature date of the Treaty, 19 November 1990."

Our email of 7 December explained that having checked our records we understood that the MOD were the lead department for this treaty and recommended submitting your request to the MOD. We explained that should you still wish to submit your request, you should confirm by return of email. You wrote on 2 February that the MOD had stated that they did not hold the information requested and requested the following:

"Given however that the notifications would have been provided to the UK as formal diplomatic communications (under Article XVII of the Treaty) I should be grateful if could complete a further search of FCO records and archives."

We wrote to you again on 7 February and stated that we would look into your enquiry and we explained that we had discussed your request with the Historical Archives team and also the FCO Treaty section. We confirmed that we were not the depositary for this treaty and provided some links to the treaty which is held in the public domain. We agreed to search our archives to see if we held any documents relating to where the treaty was officially transferred to and requested a timeframe for our search. On 11 February, we suggested a time period of 3 months for our search period. Your email of 12 February confirmed your request as a search for information from 19 November 1990 to 31 March 1991.

An error was made in our email of 7 February when we stated that we would search as to whether we held any documents relating to where the treaty was officially transferred.

However, your original request had asked for the Exchange of Information provided under the protocol to the UK by other State Parties deemed valid on 19 November 1990.

We have therefore treated this request to be a search for information relating to where the Exchange of Information provided under the Protocol as at the date of Treaty to the UK by other State Parties deemed valid on 19 November 1990 was transferred to. The timeframe for this search was 19 November 1990 – 31 March 1991.

We can confirm that we have identified information held by the FCO on the movement of this data between 19 November 1990 – 31 March 1991. A review of this material to consider possible release has concluded that it can be released in full. We attach a copy of the material.

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If you would like a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gsi.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Historical FOI Team
Knowledge Management Department



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