



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Knowledge Management Dept
Hanslope Park
Hanslope
Milton Keynes MK19 7BH

JJ Evans

By email to: request-485595-88b92f52@whatdotheyknow.com

26 June 2018

Dear JJ Evans,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST – REF: 0555-18

Thank you for your e-mail of 16 May requesting access, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to information held by the FCO. You asked for:

"Under FOI please could you provide me with a list of file volumes held by the Department and/or its records office which contain any of the following keywords in the title:

"BPL"

"Blood Products"

"Bio Products Laboratory"

Please provide a 2 column list giving the full title of each file and its reference number"

After an exchange of emails, in your email of 24 May you agreed to refine your request to files from England 1976-1990. We have carried out a scoping search in relation to your request and unfortunately we find that your request is still too wide ranging and we would be unable to complete this search within the statutory time limit.

The files which fall within the scope of your request would be paper files. The FCO creates lists of paper files when they are being prepared for transfer to The National Archives (TNA) and these can be searched to identify files are we holding and which have not yet transferred. Prior to this, file title information may be available in paper file registers and we also maintain a high level description of record series in the FCO archive inventory. In order to carry out the search you have requested we would have to carry out an extensive search of file registers as well as a physical file search.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit.

We regret that the FCO is unable to comply with your request as it is presently formulated, as this would exceed the appropriate limit, as specified in regulations, of £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the FCO holds the information, and locating, extracting and retrieving the information.

If you were able to further refine your request by source we may be able to comply with your revised request for example:

- the lists produced by the FCO Annual Transfer Process
- or file lists from a specific department e.g Science and Technology (and other changes of names) from 1974 – 1990

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



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.