



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Western Balkans Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

Greg Dash

Email: [request-380630-44b28db6@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-380630-44b28db6@whatdotheyknow.com)

23 February 2017

Dear Mr Dash

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0065-17**

Thank you for your emails of 8 and 16 January 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

On 8 January you asked:

*Can you please supply me with copies of any communications between the Foreign Secretary or FCO staff and the British Embassy in Belgrade, which fit the following criteria:*

- *Were sent between 1 Oct 16 and 30 Nov 16*
- *Were sent by the Foreign Secretary or staff at the FCO to staff at the British Embassy in Belgrade, or were received by the Foreign Secretary or staff at the FCO from staff at the British Embassy in Belgrade.*

On 16 January, you refined your request as follows:

*As requested, to clarify this request, could you please provide copies of any communication between the Foreign Secretary or FCO staff and the British Embassy in Belgrade, which fit the criteria above, and relate to the criteria below:*

- *Relate to the official two-day visit of the Foreign Secretary to Serbia on 10th-12th November 2016.*
- *These communications could include (but are not limited to) correspondence prior to the visit agreeing on times/dates/etc., details of the Foreign Secretary's diary during the visit, and correspondence on promoting the visit through the media.*

I am sorry for the delay in responding to your request. I can confirm that the FCO does hold information relevant to your request.

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. 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

working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Your refined request 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. For example, you could narrow the time frame further, or specify a particular topic or event from the visit that is of interest to you.

Please note that any new request will be given a separate reference number and we will then consider whether we can provide the information requested within the appropriate cost limit. This would of course be subject to the consideration of whether any of the other exemptions under the FOI Act apply.

If you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the FOI and DPA Team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room K4.04, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: [foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk](mailto:foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk). You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have 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

**Western Balkans Department**

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**



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.