

Western Balkans Department Foreign and Commonwealth Office King Charles Street London SW1A 2AH

Website: https://www.gov.uk

06 April 2017

Greg Dash

By Email: request-380630-44b28db6@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Dash

INTERNAL REVIEW OF FOI REQUESTS REF: 0065-17 and 0066-17

Thank you for your email of 09 March requesting an internal review regarding the response to FOI requests 0065-17 and 0066-17.

You claim in your email that the FOI responses appear to contradict Sir Alan Duncan MP's response to Parliamentary Questions 61655 and 64051. The Parliamentary Responses refer to the preparations made prior to the Foreign Secretary's official visit to Serbia in November 2016.

FOI 0066-17 requested copies of communications between the Foreign Secretary, his staff or FCO staff and Serbian Newspaper, Danas, which fit particular criteria. The response confirmed that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold the information you have requested. Having reviewed the processes undertaken, I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold information relevant to your request, and as such the response was correct.

FOI 0065-17 requested copies of any communication between the Foreign Secretary or FCO staff and the British Embassy in Belgrade, which fit particular criteria. The response confirmed that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does hold information relevant to your request, however a Section 12 refusal notice was applied given the costs of dealing with your request would have exceeded the appropriate limit. Having reviewed the processes undertaken for that response I am content that it was accurate and appropriate.

Therefore after careful consideration of the original handling of the request and on the basis of the findings above, the internal review has upheld the original decision.

If you wish to make a complaint, you may then 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

DO Team Leader Western Balkans Department



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