



Home Office

International and Immigration
Policy Group (IIPG)
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

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(switchboard)

www.gov.uk/home-office

Riaz Sobrany

By email - request-180623-8af4e04f@whatdotheyknow.com

4 November 2013

Dear Mr Sobrany,

FOI Request 29264

YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN RELATION TO SYED TALHA AHSAN

Thank you for your email of 10 October 2013, in which you ask for information regarding Syed Ahsan who was extradited to the United States in October 2012. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

You have requested the following information:

1. Was any contact made between the Home Office and the National Autistic Society concerning Syed Talha Ahsan?
2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, which department of the Home Office and which personnel of that department had contact with which personnel of the National Autistic Society?
3. Has the Home Office seen all the evidence held by the United States in the case of Syed Talha Ahsan?
4. If the answer to question 3 is yes, was any of this evidence forwarded to the National Autistic Society?
5. Copies of any correspondence between the Home Office and the National Autistic Society concerning Syed Talha Ahsan.

The information requested in Questions 1, 2, 4 and 5 would be considered personal information as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998. We can neither confirm nor deny whether we hold the information you have requested by virtue of Section 40(5)(a) and (b)(ii) (personal information) of the Act. These sections of the Act absolve us from the requirement to say whether or not we hold information. To confirm or deny that information

was held would, in itself, be a statement about individuals, which in turn would be impermissible as this would breach a data protection principle.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and therefore does not require a Public Interest Test.

This response should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested is or is not held by the Home Office.

In response to Question 3, the Home Office has not seen all the evidence held by the United States with regard to the case against Mr Ahsan. UK extradition law specifies the documents which are required in support of an extradition request; it is for the courts to decide in each case whether the correct documents have been submitted. The matters to be assessed by Ministers or the Courts when considering whether a person should be extradited are not whether a person is guilty or innocent but whether any of the statutory bars to surrender in the Extradition Act 2003 apply. The requirements for non European Arrest Warrant cases are set out under Part 2 of the Extradition Act 2003.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **FOI 29264**.

Information Access Team
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

e-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by colleagues who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FoI Act.

If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Shiels
International and Immigration Policy Group