



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Protocol Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

David Mason
By Email

request-412561-6feefa89@whatdotheyknow.com

07 July 2017

Dear Mr Mason,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0571-17

Thank you for your email of 16 June 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- *What are the rules and protocols for diplomatic bags? Please could you send them?*
- *Are there any rules on a diplomatic bags eg size ?*
- *Are there any circumstances when they may be seized or searched?*
- *Do the rules differ between countries or are the rules international?*
- *How do two countries agree on who is allowed to be Diplomats and allowed diplomatic passports? What different treatment does someone get on a diplomatic passport?*

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible . Information relevant to your request about diplomatic bags can be found in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 in Article 27 on the website via the following link:

http://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_1_1961.pdf

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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. 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,

Protocol Directorate



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