



Foreign &
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10 March 2020

Dear Dr Briant,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1147-19

Thank you for your five requests for information which we received on 22 November 2019.
In your requests you asked;

- 1. Regarding the meeting with Embassy staff in Washington on 9th January 2017 as per FOI REF: 0804-19. Please could you tell me the purpose of the meeting and can I see any correspondence , minutes or other documents relating to the meeting.***
- 2. Please could know the purpose of the meeting and can I see any correspondence, minutes or other documentation relating to the meeting(s) with Jared Kushner and Steven Bannon and the foreign secretary on 8th January 2017 as per FOI REF: 0804-19.***
- 3. Please could I have a copy of the guest list for the evening reception with Republicans in Washington DC that the foreign secretary attended on 8th January 2017 as per FOI REF: 0804-19.***
- 4. Please could I request a description and any correspondence or minutes and briefings relating to the meeting in Trump Tower with the foreign secretary on 8th January 2017.***
- 5. Please could I request to know the matters discussed during the meeting between the Foreign Secretary and Bob Corker on 9th January 2017. And can I please also see all correspondence, documents and meeting minutes relating to the meeting.***

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

Section 27(1) (a) of the FOIA recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and other states if it was disclosed. In this case, the release of information relating to the former Foreign Secretary's visit to the US could harm our relations with the United States of America.

The application of s.27 (1) (a) requires us to consider the public interest test arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. We acknowledge that releasing information on this issue would increase public knowledge about our relations with the United States of America. However, s.27 (1) (a) recognises that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the United Kingdom does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be hampered, which will not be in the public interest. The disclosure of information detailing our relationship with the US Government could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and the United States of America. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with the United States of America, which would not be in the public interest. For these reasons we consider that, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

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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 Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH 2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.pmcs@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,

Central FOI Unit

Parliamentary, Ministerial and Central Services



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