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Mr Edward Williams

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8 August 2019

Dear Mr Williams,

INTERNAL REVIEW OF FOI REQUEST REF: 0579-0582-19 & 0667-19

Thank you for your email of 19 July asking for an internal review of the decision conveyed to you in our letter dated the same day.

I am writing to confirm that I have conducted a full review of the exemptions used in response to your requests relating to Mr Belhaj and Ms Boudchar.

After reviewing your recent requests, the 19 July letter to you and publicly available guidance available from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), I agree with the application of section 14(1) and 14(2) to this set of requests.

Under section 14(1) we are not obliged to comply if we consider the request is vexatious, and under 14(2) where we have previously complied with a request for information, we are not obliged to comply with a subsequent identical or substantially similar request.

The Drafting Officer's rationale for the use of section 14(1) and 14(2) was appropriate and I have nothing further to add to the reasons they have conveyed in their 19 July letter to you. 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.

It is worth noting that the use of section 14 only applies to the request itself and not the requester. You are still able to lodge FOI requests to the FCO, but please note that we would judge and process future requests based on their merits.

If you feel we have not handled your internal review correctly and 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,

Intelligence Policy Department



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