



HM Treasury

Information Rights Unit
HM Treasury
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Mr John McEvoy

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23 September 2019

Dear Mr McEvoy

Ref: FOI2019/12829

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Chief Secretary visit to Brasilia and São Paulo (April 2018)

Thank you for your enquiry of 26 August 2019, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"While Chief Secretary to the Treasury in April 2018, Liz Truss MP visited Brazil.

I'd like to know:

- 1. Who did Liz Truss meet in Brazil, including official job title;*
- 2. When;*
- 3. Detailed minutes & notes from each meeting;*

*Liz Truss claimed that, during her visit to Brazil, it is "vital" that the UK government "make the case" for "free markets, an open economy, and privatisation".
(<https://twitter.com/trussliz/status/983788752966479872>)*

I'd like to know:

- 4. How did Liz Truss, on behalf of the UK government, make the case for this?*
- 5. Did Liz Truss meet with representatives of the Instituto Millenium, and if so:
Who, when, and I'd like to see detailed minutes;*
- 6. Did Liz Truss meet with representatives of BP, Shell, or other British energy businesses operating in Brazil, and if so:
Who, when, and I'd like to see detailed minutes."*

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

We have identified information, which we believe engages the exemptions provided for by provisions under section 27(1) (International Relations) of the FOI Act. These are qualified exemptions and we are required to balance the public interest between disclosure and non-disclosure.

By virtue of section 10(3) of the Act, where public authorities have to consider the balance

of the public interest in relation to a request, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances.

We always aim to reply to requests in full within 20 working days, even when the balancing of the public interest is required; however, in this case, the Treasury has not yet resolved the different considerations. We therefore need to take some additional time to assess whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

We estimate it will take us another 20 working days to complete our consideration though we will of course reply sooner if possible. We therefore expect to provide our substantive response by 21 October 2019.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

IRU

Information Rights Unit

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Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

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The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (or via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk>).