



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Central FOI Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

Vicky Cann
request-645063-3c97944f@whatdotheyknow.com

7 April 2020

Dear Vicky Cann

Your Freedom Of Information Request: FOI2020/00926

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 11th February. In your request you asked for;

I request a list of the lobby meetings (with representatives of companies, organisations and other stakeholders) held by the UK Permanent Representative to the EU and his Deputy in the past six months. I would like this list to include: who was present at the meeting, including the names of organisations/ lobbyists present, as well as the date of the meeting, and the subject matter discussed. I would also like to receive the minutes of any and all of these meetings.

I make this request in the light of my previous request 0536-18 which, in a ruling dated 11 April 2019, showed that section 36 and section 27 of the FOIA do not override the public interest in releasing this information.

I look forward to receiving this information as soon as possible.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does hold information falling within the terms of your request.

The FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days, and a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case. We do, of course, aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including in cases where we need to consider where the public interest lies in respect of a request for exempt information. In this case, however, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies.

In your case we estimate that it will take an additional 20 days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 7th May. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The specific exemption which applies in relation to your request is: Section 27 – international relations.

Please contact us at foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk if you have any queries about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Central FOI Unit



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