

Information Rights Team Foreign and Commonwealth Office King Charles Street London SW1A 2AH

dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk

Mr Cohen

By E-mail: request-159807-c09eba70@whatdotheyknow.com

31 May 2013

Dear Mr Cohen,

Your Freedom Of Information Requests: 0400-13 and 0401-13

Thank you for your requests for information which we received on 1 May. In your requests you asked:

What meetings have taken place to discuss whether the UK would adopt a "Magnitsky" list similar to that of the United States of America? What correspondence has been sent and received between the FCO and other MPs? And what is the content of these correspondence?

Has the FCO or any of its ministers been lobbied to support or adopt the "Magnitsky" list adopted by the United States? If so, by whom?

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 28 June 2013. 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 35 Formulation of government policy

If you are unhappy with the service you are receiving and wish to make a complaint, please write to the Information Rights Team, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, K4.10-K4.13, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH. E-mail: dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk.

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.

Please contact me if you have any queries about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Carly Brazier

Carly Brazier
Desk Officer Russia Team
Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate



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