



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

North Africa Joint Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

Mr David Lindsey
request-497309-315f0d90@whatdotheyknow.com

23 August 2018

Dear Mr Lindsey,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0837-18

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2018 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I would like to request any and all diplomatic documents concerning the March 1, 2003 Arab League summit at Sharm al-Sheikh.

You refined this request on 18 July 2018:

I am interested in the discussion related to Iraq at the summit, including reporting on this topic from British diplomats as well as any UK attempts to influence the summit itself. Please let me know if this sufficiently clarifies the request. If not, I would be happy to work with you on further specificity.

You further refined it on 30 July 2018:

You may limit to:

- 1) Efforts by the UK or allied governments to influence policy/attitudes towards Iraq at the summit*
- 2) Proposals for the exile of Saddam Hussein and responses to these proposals.*
- 3) Diplomatic overtures to Saddam Hussein or others within the Iraqi government*

I can confirm that the FCO may hold information relevant to your request.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Your request as presently formulated is widely framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this

information. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request. You may therefore wish to refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit. For example, you could limit your request to one of those three options or request certain type of documents (i.e. briefings or outcomes). You could also provide a time frame.

Please note that any new request will be given a separate reference number and we will then consider whether we can provide the information requested within the appropriate cost limit. This would of course be subject to the consideration of whether any of the other exemptions under the FOI Act apply.

If you would like to request a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Central FOI Unit at Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH, or by e-mail to foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk. Please note that you have 40 working days from the date of this letter in which to submit a request for an internal review.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first 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,

North Africa Joint Unit



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.