



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Consular Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

Chris Whewell,

By email: request-382381-d80cdda9@whatdotheyknow.com

27 January 2017

Dear Chris ,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0062-17

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

You wrote:

".....You have previously replied to a FOI request, stating that a meeting was held between Spanish MFA officials and those of the FCO on February 8th or 9th 2016 during which the Spanish requirement by the Spanish (in visa applications) for marriages involving a British citizen (but carried out abroad) to be registered in Britain was discussed. In your reply, you state the following: "At that meeting it was agreed that Spanish consular missions would no longer request confirmation of the validity of foreign marriages in the UK. The MFA confirmed that visa applications are assessed on their own merits without referral to UK marriage registration or recognition. The Spanish MFA told our consular staff that a locally issued marriage certificate should be sufficient for visa applications. The MFA indicated that where a visa has been refused it was for other reasons and not because a foreign marriage could not be registered in the UK." I need more information about the results of the meeting including who was present, statements made regarding current policy, protocols and practices and the decisions taken. A copy of the minutes, the nota verbale (of 23rd March) that was issued or similar would suffice I believe"

Outcome of Search and Disclosure

We have completed our search and I can confirm that the FCO does hold some information relevant to your request.

I attach with this letter:

- A copy of the meeting record with Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs which took place on 08 February 2016
- An official translation of the subsequent Note Verbale which was submitted on 23 March 2016

We have respected the confidentiality of third parties by withholding information relating to them as appropriate, as releasing this information would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998

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Next Steps

I hope you are satisfied with this reply. However, if you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the FOI and DPA Team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room K4.04, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

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.

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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact our mailbox. Please remember to quote the reference number noted above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

FOI/DPA Desk Officer



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