



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Central Freedom of Information Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

Mr Stephen Delahunty

Email: request-608092-3a2badcc@whatdotheyknow.com

28 October 2019

Dear Mr Delahunty

Your Freedom Of Information Request: 0941-19

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 30 September 2019. You asked:

On March 26 2019 Alan Duncan MP met with representatives of BP to discuss the minister's portfolio. Can you provide the minutes of this meeting.

If the request is going to be rejected under Section 43 can you provide a detailed explanation of your decision and how the department weighed the public interest against commercial sensitivity? For example:

For information to be withheld under Section 43 [commercial sensitivity], the following MUST be provided:

- Details of the exact FOIA exemption.*
- Details of who would be prejudiced – see MoJ guidance above, page 4.*
- A “Public Interest Test” where the arguments for and against release of the information should be discussed .*
- If release of the information could prejudice a third party, they should be consulted with – see FOIA Section 45 Code of Practice Part IV*
- In addition much information from recent public sector contracts should be made available, especially if they are from after 2005, the start date of the FOIA – see ICO Awareness guidance 5 annexe – public sector contracts.*

Further, can you identify any information that might not be commercially sensitive? our request you asked for;

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 22nd November 2019. 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.

If you are unhappy with the service you are receiving and wish to make a complaint, please write to the FOI and DPA Team, 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Central Freedom of Information Unit



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.