



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Central FOI Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

Emmy Butlin

By Email: request-530019-390ece66@whatdotheyknow.com

31 January 2019

Dear Ms Butlin,

Your Freedom Of Information Request: 1201-18

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 5 November 2018. In your request you asked;

Please provide copy of Note no A295/17 dated 21 December 2017 and all related communications on the subject.

The document is already made public (albeit hardly legible) by Mr Rafael Satter of the Associated Press on 17 October 2018 , at URL <https://www.apnews.com/3728e1631d57454a9502dd51d1bf441b> (see Annex 19)

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 February 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 Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.pmcs@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 FOI Unit
Parliamentary, Ministerial and Central Services



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