



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Old Admiralty Building
London SW1A 2PA

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

Mr Stefan Donnelly

By Email: request-283522-fd18772a@whatdotheyknow.com

27 August 2015

Dear Mr Donnelly,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0773-15

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“Please provide any correspondence between Ministers or Foreign Office officials and the KPMG team which conducted the latest feasibility study into Chagossian return which addresses the levels of demand in the Chagossian community for returning to the Chagos Islands. Please include correspondence relating to demand in Mauritius, UK and Seychelles-based communities.

Measuring demand for return was an element of the feasibility study carried out by KPMG.”

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that no information is held by this Department in which Ministers or FCO officials discussed demand with the KPMG team. I have however, attached a copy of a report that records KPMG’s discussions with the Chagossian communities in the UK, Mauritius and Seychelles and their assessment of the likely demand from those they met, which may be of interest. This report was shared with interested parties by email on 10 February 2015.

The Terms of Reference for the KPMG study did not set to measure demand for potential resettlement, rather it focussed on assessing practical feasibility. Their work developed what they considered to be the most practically feasible options, and they engaged the community to ensure the overall scale of these corresponded with the broad sense of demand. Ministers subsequently decided that they needed more information about this to make a decision about resettlement and further work is now underway, including consulting with Chagossians themselves, to establish this more clearly. This is based on the options outlined in the KPMG study, refined according to what officials currently consider to be the most realistic detail, so that Chagossians are able to make as informed a decision as possible.

Page 18, paragraph 3.3 in the [feasibility study](#) also covers the indication of the likely demand for resettlement.

The government consultation on BIOT resettlement policy review can be found on [gov.uk](#).

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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, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room K4.14, 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.

Yours sincerely,

British Indian Ocean Territory Section
Falklands and Southern Oceans Department

