



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Legal Advisers – Legal Information Group  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

Mr Martin Keegan  
E-mail: request-105647-a73eaf1c@whatdotheyknow.com

24 February 2012

Dear Mr Keegan,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0177-12**

Thank you for your recent enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA"). In your email you requested to know the following information:

- i) How many treaties are currently in progress (i.e., drafted, the subject of negotiations, awaiting signature, etc)?
- ii) What is the UK's current position in relation to each such treaty? (in the sense of whether the UK has signed, or are awaiting information that other parties have signed, etc)
- iii) What is the working title of each such draft treaty?
- iv) Which states or other persons under international law are the other expected signatories or acceders to each such treaty?

I have conducted a search for the information you have requested. Information regarding the total number of treaties which are currently being drafted, negotiated or awaiting signature (etc.) is not centrally held as any number of government departments might be working on a treaty at any given time, depending on the subject-matter in each case. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provisions 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 days 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.

I hope you are satisfied with this reply. However, if you would like a review of our decision or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Information Rights Team at The Old

Admiralty Building, Room SG 120, London, SW1A 2PA. E-mail: [dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk](mailto:dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk).  
You have 40 working days to do so from the date 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.

We continually strive to improve our service, so we would welcome your feedback and comments. If you would like to provide feedback on our service, please email our Information Rights Team, again at: [dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk](mailto:dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk)

You can also find out more about the FCO and freedom of information issues at our Access to Information website: <http://foi.fco.gov.uk/en>

Yours sincerely,

*S Kay*

Sebastian Kay  
Office Management Section  
Legal Advisers



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.