

Ref: FOI2018/04022

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Mr C Williams  
request-472218-ed28baec@whatdotheyknow.com

15 October 2018

Dear Mr C Williams

Thank you for your email of 19 March requesting the following information:

- 1. Does MI6 or any other branch of the British state or military conduct assassinations (to deliberately kill a person(s) in any foreign jurisdictions?***
- 2. Does the British state ever sponsor or commission through any form of proxy agent(s) or organisations assassinations in any foreign jurisdictions?***
- 3. Does the British state ever collude with other foreign states to commission assassinations in any foreign jurisdictions?***
- 4. Does the British state ever provide any intelligence information, logistic support or other form of aid or assistance to facilitate other actors (foreign states, actors or organisations) to commission assassinations in any foreign jurisdictions?***
- 5. Under what lawful circumstances can the British state assassinate another person(s) in other countries?***
- 6. Under what lawful circumstances can the British state sponsor or commission through a proxy the assassination of another person(s) in other countries?***
- 7. Under what lawful circumstances can the British state provide any intelligence information, logistic support or other form of aid or assistance to facilitate other actors (foreign states, actors or organisations) to commission assassinations in any foreign jurisdictions?***

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Firstly, may I apologise for the length of time it has taken to answer your request.

Your request asks for details about "assassinations". The definition of assassination is to "Murder (an important person) for political or religious reasons." A search for information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, you may find it helpful to note that the UK may use force (up to and including lethal force) where there is a legal basis to do so and will use that force in accordance with international law and UK law. The use of force by UK Armed Forces is set out in the UK Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict which is available at the following internet address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jsp-383-the-joint-service-manual-of-the-law-of-armed-conflict-2004-edition>.

The Government also reserves the right to use force to defend the UK against armed attack or an imminent armed attack. For example, as set out by the then Prime Minister, David Cameron. See following link (7 Sep 2015: Column 25)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150907/debtext/150907-0001.htm>

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

MOD Operations Directorate