



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Central FOI Unit  
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Claire Wilde  
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19 November 2019

Dear Ms Wilde,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0606-19**

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2019 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

***I was looking for information on all the department's ministers, but would be content to limit the scope of my request in a different way.***

***Instead of asking for eight pieces of information about each trip, I would be content to receive:***

***Name of minister***

***Full address of destination***

***Start date of trip***

***Purpose of trip***

***If it is helpful, I can also clarify what I mean by ministerial trip within the UK:  
I mean an engagement while on ministerial duties to any location except central  
Government or Parliamentary premises, regardless of the length of time of the trip.***

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested. However, we have interpreted your request to be travel outside London in order to keep the request within the Section 12 time/costs limit. As such I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

Please find attached the information we can release to you. However, some information is withheld under the following FOIA exemptions:

Section 23 – information related to bodies dealing with security matters

Section 40 – personal information

## Section 23

Some information in the attached has been assessed as falling under the exemption in Section 23(1) of the Act. This is an absolute exemption and is therefore not subject to the public interest test. The reason the exemption applies is that the information was directly or indirectly supplied to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by, or relates to, one of the bodies specified in subsection 23(3).

## Section 40

Some of the information you have requested is personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and 40 (3A)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the data protection principle that personal data should be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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If you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH 2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: [foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk](mailto: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.

Yours sincerely,

Central FOI Unit

Parliamentary, Ministerial and Central Services



For information about how the FCO handles personal information please see our [Personal Information Charter](#).