



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Europe Directorate - Internal
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

Mr J. Smith
request-355023-6225419b@whatdotheyknow.com

12 January 2017

Dear Mr Smith,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 1055-16

Thank you for your email of 14 November 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I would like to request the copies of any UK ambassadors' valedictory dispatches or first impressions' dispatches from the years 1998 to 2006 from the Netherlands and Republic of Ireland.

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 working days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 8 February 2017. 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 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,

Northern and Central Europe Department



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.