



UK Trade & Investment

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Our Ref: FOI2015/14090

4 August 2015

Mr Andrew Cropper
[request-278831-01035f7d@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

Dear Mr Cropper,

Thank you for your email of 8 July where you requested the following information:

I am no longer seeing details of the ministers involved in the UKTI Strategic Relations Team (as mentioned here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/ukti-strategic-relations-team>) and I would like to know if the team is still active and, now that the 2015 general election has passed, which ministers are now on the team and the companies that each minister is involved with as details no longer seem to be accessible.

There was a .pdf online at the following link (created in February) with details of all the ministers involved which is no longer available - here https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403187/UKTI-Strategic-Relations-List-February-2015.pdf

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

I can confirm that the Department holds the information you are seeking. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the Act because the information is intended for publication at a future date. The list is not yet finalised but it will be refreshed and published on www.gov.uk in the near future.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test in determining whether to release this information.

There is a public interest in knowing the details of those ministers involved in the UKTI Strategic Relations Team, as disclosure would lead to increased public scrutiny of Government decisions involving these ministers, along with increased accountability. However, given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing this

information, we consider that public resources are best directed to collating this information, ensuring it is accurate and publishing it in a consistent and comprehensive format in due course.

The Department's decision is therefore to withhold the information at this time.

Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi.requests@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Strategic Relations and Accounts
UKTI