



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Near East Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

21 November 2014

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0988-14

Thank you for your email of 23 October asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked for:

Correspondence between BE Amman and the Jordanian Ministry of Interior requesting that all UK visa applicants, without a valid passport or travel document, confirm their identity with the Jordanian authorities

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request some of which is set out in the digest of information attached.

Some of the information you have requested has been withheld under Section 27 (1) (a) and (2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Section 27 (1) (a) of the FOI recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Section 27 (2) recognizes the need to protect confidential information obtained from a foreign state. As Section 27 is a qualified exemption, a public interest test is required.

The information requested relates to confidential Government-to-Government discussions with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Releasing information shared with the UK on a confidential basis could not only undermine the UK's bilateral relationship with Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, but also damage UK's interest through its work with the Jordanian Ministry of Interior. If we want to play an influencing role, then this bilateral relationship needs protecting. We acknowledge that there is public interest in the transparency of correspondence related to discussions held by officials on this issue to promote accountability and trust.

However, weighed against this is the need to maintain trust and confidence between the Governments to ensure the effective conduct of international relations. This relationship of trust allows for a free and frank exchange of information on the understanding that it will be treated in confidence. If the United Kingdom does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote the UK interest through international relations will be hampered. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan may be reluctant to share sensitive information with the UK Government in the future and may be less likely to respect the confidentiality of information supplied by the UK Government to them, to the detriment of UK interests. In this way, we judge that our ability to work effectively with the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan would be hindered if we were to release all of the information requested.

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Yours sincerely,

Near East Department

