



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Conflict Department**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

21 May 2015

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0404-15**

Thank you for your email of 27 April 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*'The recent International Development Committee [inquiry](#) 'Beyond Aid' found that "too often the Government places too little emphasis on ensuring that its wider policies are coherent" and recommended that DFID "must do more to influence policy across the whole of Government". Please can you tell me what advice DFID has provided to the FCO relating to the risks and / or benefits of a mandatory versus voluntary scheme for conflict minerals?*

*In addition, please could you tell me which companies or their representatives (such as trade bodies) the Government has had discussions with, and/or received written submissions from, about the regulation of conflict minerals, since 1 March 2014. For each company, please could you tell me how many meetings discussed conflict minerals (and of these, how many were with Ministers) and how many written documents you received from the company that discussed conflict minerals'.*

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.

The answers to your questions, in the order in which you put them, are:

1. DFID, along with all other interested government departments, has agreed the UK position in favour of a voluntary scheme at EU level.
2. FCO officials have had meetings on the responsible sourcing of minerals with the following businesses and representative bodies since 1 March 2014: Digital Europe (twice), Intel (six times), Applied Materials (twice), Rolls Royce (three times), Airbus (three times), Alstom (once), BMW (three times), Dell (once), EEF (once), the Trans-Atlantic Business Council (once), the British Retail Consortium (once), the British Jewellery Association (once), the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (once), Estelle Levin (once), the London Metals Exchange (once), the World Gold Council (once), the London Bullion Market Association (twice), Signet (once), techUK (once), BEAMA (once), the CBI (once), Riden's Public Affairs (once) and Community Public Affairs (once). The above list covers planned meetings, which FCO officials attended singly or in groups. In addition to pre-arranged meetings, there are also unplanned, incidental meetings, for example at large conferences. None of the above-mentioned meetings were with FCO ministers. If you wish to find out information concerning meetings between officials of other government departments, such as DFID or the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), please address your questions directly to them.
3. Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. A full list of FCO ministers' meetings with external contacts until June 2014 is published by the Cabinet Office at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ministers-transparency-publications>. A list of subsequent meetings will be published in due course. Therefore, this information is exempt under section 22 of the FOIA – Information intended for future publication.
4. Written submissions have been received from a number of the organisations mentioned above. Again, under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. However, where the FCO has received written documentation, it is information which is already in the public domain, on company or trade association websites, for example at:  
[http://www.digitaleurope.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core\\_Download&EntryId=750&PortalId=0&TabId=353](http://www.digitaleurope.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=750&PortalId=0&TabId=353)

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Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer

Conflict Department



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