



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Foreign Secretary's Office  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

02 February 2015

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0001-15**

Thank you for your email of 3 January 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. I understand my request will take 20 working days to process but I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt via [ ]*

*Please note that the reference to William Hague in the questions below should be taken to mean both Mr Hague and or employees who were working in his private office at the time.*

*Please note that the references to Ms Jolie should be taken to mean both Ms Jolie and or her agent and manager [ ].*

*Please note that I am only interested in information which covers the period 1 January 2013 to 1 July 2014*

*Please note that the reference to correspondence should include letters, emails, faxes as well as the notes and transcripts of any telephone and or skype conversations.*

*1...For the aforementioned period does the Foreign Office hold copies of correspondence and communications exchanged between Mr Hague and Angelina Jolie.*

*2...For the aforementioned period can the Foreign Office please provide a schedule of all correspondence and communications held. Can you please break this down by date and time. Please do include both sides of the correspondence and communications.*

*3...For the aforementioned period can you please provide copies of all correspondence and communications (including emails) between Mr Hague and Ms Jolie. Please do include the notes and or transcripts of any telephone/skype conversations.*

*4...Does the foreign office hold documentation which may list those occasions when the former Foreign Secretary has invited guests to stay at Chevening House.*

*5...If the answer is yes can you please provide a list of occasions when Ms Jolie and or her partner Brad Pitt and or her family have been guests at Chevening House. Can you please provide a breakdown of any visits including date, time and duration of stay.*

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

I have considered your request in light of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I can confirm that we hold information relating to your request about correspondence with Ms Angelina Jolie. We do not hold any information in relation to request about Mr Richard Klubeck.

### **Questions 1-3**

Some of the information will be withheld because it is exempt under section 37(1) (b) (conferring by the Crown of any Honour or Dignity).

Consideration has been given to whether it would be in the public interest to release those parts of the information we hold which are not covered by the absolute exemption provided for third party personal information (section 40) but which are covered by section 37(1)(b). It is in the public interest to ensure that the award of honours and dignities is accountable and transparent. It is also, however, in the public interest to maintain the integrity of the honours system. Non disclosure of information relating to individual nominations ensures:

- that those invited to offer information about a candidate can continue to do so freely and honestly, in confidence, on the understanding that their confidence will be honoured;
- that decisions about honours continue to be taken on the basis of full and honest information about the person concerned and their achievements;
- that those who sit on honours assessment panels can carry out their work free from pressure for, or on behalf of, potential or actual candidates.

We have decided that the public interest in maintaining the exclusion outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

A search has shown that communication with Ms Jolie was primarily by telephone (no records written) and in person when she was visiting London. There was no email communication between Mr Hague and Ms Jolie. There was email communication between a limited number of staff and Ms Jolie about programmes and logistics for her trips with Mr Hague to Kigali and the Democratic Republic of Congo (March 2013), to Bosnia and Herzegovina (March 2015) and for the Global Summit on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (June 2014). Private Office only retains documents that are a matter of public record. Those emails did not meet that criteria given the nature of the content.

### **Questions 4 and 5**

Information on official guests at Chevening House is publicly available and is already in the public domain and falls under the exemption defined by section 21 (1), which relates to information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant. This is an

absolute exemption and so the Public Interest Test does not apply. Information about official guests at Chevening can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications>.

Yours sincerely,

Foreign Secretary's Office  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



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