



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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London SW1A 2AH

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26 October 2015

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0952-15**

Thank you for your email of 28 September asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to inquire about the following, in relation to the High Delegation to Geneva in early September and working in relation to Bahrain:*

1. *Who and what organisations and government comprised the delegation? How many members comprised the delegation?*
2. *What was the reason for the delegation's visit to the UN?*
3. *How was the delegation financed, and by whom?*
4. *Is the delegation a part of the £2.1m assistance package to Bahrain?*
5. *Who and which organisations/delegations did the High Delegation meet with?*
6. *Was this delegation part of a larger delegation?*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

There were five members of the delegation. They were not part of a larger group. The party comprised of:

- Head of Political Internal and Press & Public Affairs, British Embassy Manama
- Head of Programmes Team, British Embassy Manama
- Managing Director, Causeway Institute
- Criminal Justice Development Adviser, Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas
- Inspection Team Leader, HM Inspectorate of Prisons

The delegation visited Geneva to engage with the UK Mission to the United Nations. The delegation also met with a wide range of interlocutors, including NGOs, to inform and discuss Bahrain's progress on reform and human rights with a focus on the UK's programme

of assistance. This is in line with the UK government's overarching objective on Bahrain: *to support Bahrain in its return to a stable and reformist state, with a good human rights record.*

They met with:

- Representatives from EU Member States' Missions to the United Nations Geneva.
- Representatives from the Swiss Mission to the United Nations Geneva.
- Representatives from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- Representatives from human rights NGOs, including Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), the Cairo Institute, FIDH, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty.
- Representatives from the US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Missions to the United Nations Geneva.

The visit was financed by the UK government's £2.1m Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) for Bahrain.

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Yours sincerely,

Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department



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