



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

02 February 2016

HMG Daesh Task Force
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0020-16

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Thank you for your email of 6 January 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to seek access to the following records which I believe are held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (*FCO*):

-copies of all correspondence, including electronic and written correspondence, between the *FCO* and the Irish government which refer to Isis and/or Isil and/or the Islamic State and/or IS and/or Daesh exchanged in the last two years

My preferred form of access is electronic via the email address supplied below, or whatever is most convenient for you.

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, which we have attached.

This is the only piece of correspondence between the UK government and the Irish government that falls within the remit of your request.

Some of the withheld information is personal data relating to third parties. It is our view that disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act therefore apply. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which we think would be breached by disclosure in this case. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. We do not therefore have to apply the public interest test.

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Yours sincerely,

HMG Daesh Task Force

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We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.

Annex A

The relevant parts of an email of 22 May 2015 from HM Ambassador Dublin to an official at the Department for Justice and Equality

From: Dominick Chilcott
Sent: 22 May 2015 17:39
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Mr Lidington's meeting with the Minister for Justice and Equality

Dear [redacted]

I do hope I have your name correctly.

I was with the Minister [out of scope] yesterday [out of scope]

In the course of our conversation, I mentioned that Mr Lidington, the British minister for Europe, was looking forward to his meeting with her on Tuesday afternoon. The Minister asked me to send her a list of the topics that Mr Lidington might raise.

[out of scope]

Mr Lidington may also raise the question of how best to prevent our citizens from joining ISIS and how to deal with the threat to security that they may pose if/when they return to our countries – the so-called foreign fighters issue.

[out of scope]

I hope this helps. Please do get in touch if the Minister would like to know more before Tuesday.

With best wishes,

Dominick Chilcott

DJ Chilcott
British Ambassador to Ireland