



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Africa Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0095-16

Thank you for your email of January 26 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please can I receive the following information (under Freedom of Information):

- 1) *A List of projects currently supported in Ethiopia by the Conflict, Security and Stabilisation Fund (CSSF)*
- 2) *The amount of CSSF funding allocated to each such project;*
- 3) *Whether any human rights risk assessments were carried out before the decision to allocate funds was made*

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 following programmes are supported in Ethiopia by the Conflict, Security and Stabilisation Fund:

- Support to Ethiopian Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) - £546,500
- Regional MSc in Security Sector Management - £500,000

CSSF programmes are required to assess risks, including human rights risk, and set out mitigating actions to address identified risks before CSSF funding is released. Risks are monitored throughout implementation. Funding of support to the PSTC and the MSc in Security Sector Management is also covered by an Overseas Security and Justice

Assistance Assessment. The programmes incorporate elements focusing on accountability, governance and the rule of law.

Some of the information has been withheld using section 27(1) (a) - international relations which recognises the need to protect information that would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and other states if it was disclosed. Section 27 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interests test.

The application of s.27 (1)(a) requires us to consider the public interest test arguments in favour of releasing and withholding the information. We acknowledge that releasing information on this issue would increase public knowledge about our relations with Ethiopia. However, s.27 (1) (a) recognises that the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the United Kingdom does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be hampered, which will not be in the public interest. The disclosure of information detailing our relationship with the Ethiopian Government could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and Ethiopia. This would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with Ethiopia, which would not be in the public interest. For these reasons we consider that, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Yours sincerely,

Africa Directorate, East Africa Team



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.