



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

6 March 2017

Communications Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0150-17

Thank you for your email of 07/02/2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I would like to request the following information about the Twitter account @UKinBahrain:

- 1) The total number of individual direct messages (DMs) sent and received by @UKinBahrain between 1 June 2016 and 31 January 2017 inclusive.
- 2) Copies of all DM's sent to or received by @UKinBahrain, including the content, date and time code, and individual account information between 1 June 2016 and 31 January 2017 inclusive.

I am writing to confirm that the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds information on the subject you have requested which you will find below.

See Appendix below for copies of all usernames of DM's sent or received and copies of DM content in relation to question to 1 and 2 of the above request:

Any personal data contained within the content of messages has been removed. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Section 27(1)(c) is a qualified exemption and as such we have considered where the greater public interest lies. Disclosure could meet the public interest in transparency and accountability. However, the effective conduct of international relations depends upon

maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the UK 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 setting out the thoughts of an official on our relationship with various states could potentially damage the relationship between the UK and those states. The relationships are on-going and comments - even dating back some time - could be taken into account by those states. This could reduce the UK Government's ability to protect and promote UK interests 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 disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Communications Department



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.

APPENDIX

| Date | Sent / Received | Account(s) | Content |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| 4-Jun-16 | Received | UKagainstDaesh | Thanks your really great Rt-ing - definitely the stand out post in the world for it! Have a good weekend |
| 4-Jun-16 | Sent | UKagainstDaesh | Hi In fact today is our weekend already. We will keep supporting your efforts against Daesh. |
| 4-Jun-16 | Received | UKagainstDaesh | Indeed it is so thank you ever more so - |
| 11-Jun-16 | Received | SexualViolenceInWar | Hi, I will be tweeting a number of graphics and tweets to mark two years since the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. Grateful if you can retweet, thanks (PSVI team, London) |
| 16-Jun-16 | Received | FCOArabic | وزارة الخارجية تعرب عن قلقها لتعليق نشاط #جمعية_الوقاف البحرينية المعارضة وتجميد أرصدها، #البحرين http://ow.ly/J3HS301iP3J |
| 16-Jun-16 | Received | FCOArabic | وزارة الخارجية: نحث #البحرين على احترام حقوق الجماعات السياسية بممارسة أنشطتها، وأن تسعى لحوار سياسي يشمل الجميع. http://ow.ly/J3HS301iP3J |
| 16-Jun-16 | Received | FCOArabic | وزارة الخارجية: نسعى للتحقق من وقائع منع ناشطين حقوقيين من السفر لجنيف لحضور جلسة مجلس حقوق الإنسان، واعتقال #نبيل_رجب http://ow.ly/J3HS301iP3J |
| 21-Jun-16 | Received | FCOArabic | https://twitter.com/Tobias_Ellwood/status/745260565333950464 |
| 21-Jun-16 | Received | FCOArabic | الوزير تاباياس إلوود: يقلقنا نبأ تجريد رجل الدين الشيخ عيسى قاسم من جنسيته، ونسعى للحصول على تفسير عاجل. #البحرين |
| 30-Jun-16 | Received | SexualViolenceInWar | Hi all, we have published the UK response to the House of Lords Select Committee's report on Sexual Violence. Grateful if you can re-tweet the report and the press release. Many thanks, |
| 5-Jul-16 | Received | UK Against Daesh | Hey everyone, Grateful if you could please look to RT Gareth's Eid message given amount of Syrians in your countries. Thanks and Eid Mubarak! |

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|-----------|----------|---------------------|---|
| 26-Jul-16 | Received | LeighTurnerFCO | Hello UK. After 4 great years as British Consul General, I left Istanbul on 19 July to move to Vienna, where I will be Ambassador and UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Please keep following me but also start following today my lucky successor @JudithSlaterFCO, who will arrive in Istanbul in the second week of September. I know she will love the job as much as I have. With best wishes, Leigh Turner |
| 25-Aug-16 | Received | FCOArabic | وزير شؤون الشرق الأوسط، توبياس إلوود، يجري محادثات في #السعودية اليوم بشأن الصراع المستمر في #اليمن. http://ow.ly/HVmq303zweT |
| 8-Sep-16 | Received | SexualViolenceInWar | https://twitter.com/foreignoffice/status/773876247810170880 |
| 8-Sep-16 | Received | SexualViolenceInWar | Hi, can I please ask you to retweet this video from the Foreign Secretary please? The FS will also be delivering a closing speech, grateful if you can amplify via your Twitter accounts. Many thanks, |
| 8-Sep-16 | Received | Embajada Británica | Hi. We just check with our political Team and they're ok in rt. However last time we were confused with Sri Lanka (Colombo) when we're Colombia (Bogotá) so we want to be fully sure this message is intended to us. Thanks. |
| 20-Sep-16 | Received | UKUN_NewYork | FYI- any RTs on this very welcome! Thanks in advance everyone! |
| 20-Sep-16 | Received | UKinCaribbean | Will do . |
| 20-Sep-16 | Received | UK in Azerbaijan | Sure |
| 20-Sep-16 | Received | UK in Greece | Done |
| 20-Sep-16 | Received | UK in Bolivia | Done |
| 20-Sep-16 | Received | Embajada Británica | Done |
| 20-Sep-16 | Received | UK in El Salvador | Done |
| 21-Sep-16 | Received | UK in Croatia | Done! Thx for the heads-up :-) |
| 21-Sep-16 | Received | UK in China | Done |
| 21-Sep-16 | Received | EdSamuelFCO | https://twitter.com/EdSamuelFCO/status/778633146690592768 |
| 21-Sep-16 | Received | EdSamuelFCO | https://twitter.com/EdSamuelFCO/status/778635705446719488 |

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| 21-Sep-16 | Received | FCOArabic | https://twitter.com/FCOArabic/status/778636298957586432 |
| 6-Oct-16 | Received | UKUN_NewYork | FYI- António Guterres of Portugal has just been formally recommended to be the next Secretary-General by the UN Security Council. |
| 6-Oct-16 | Received | UK in Holy See | Thank you and RT'd |
| 6-Oct-16 | Received | UK in Guatemala | Done for Guatemala |
| 6-Oct-16 | Received | UKinCaribbean | Done |
| 6-Oct-16 | Received | UK in Azerbaijan | Done |
| 6-Oct-16 | Received | UK in Croatia | Done! |
| 7-Oct-16 | Received | ukinfiji | Done |
| 11-Dec-16 | Received | foreignoffice | FI: two videos of FS in Bahrain on FCO Twitter. Also on FCO Facebook |
| 16-Dec-16 | Received | UKagainstDaesh | Thanks for all the retweets! :-) |
| 20-Dec-16 | Sent | UKagainstDaesh | Hi. Sorry just seen you pm. You are most welcome. We will keep supporting you. |
| 24-Dec-16 | Received | foreignoffice | Hi - many thanks for the support retweeting today |
| 24-Dec-16 | Received | foreignoffice | Can you DM the email address for digital/comms colleague in Bahrain so we chat Manama Dialogue |
| 24-Dec-16 | Sent | foreignoffice | Hello. You are most welcome. |
| 24-Dec-16 | Sent | foreignoffice | Our head of Press and Public affairs is |
| 24-Dec-16 | Sent | foreignoffice | My self, I am the digital diplomacy officer |
| 24-Dec-16 | Sent | foreignoffice | And my colleague is the press officer |
| 24-Dec-16 | Received | foreignoffice | Thanks. Will email on Monday - enjoy the weekend. |
| 24-Dec-16 | Sent | foreignoffice | Thanks very much. |

ENDS.