Dear [Name],

Ref: 13-1390

Thank you for your e-mail to the Information Right Unit on the 4th October 2013 in which you requested:

"I would like to request a list of all the members of international delegations at DSEi 2013. Please include the delegates' names and positions as well as the delegation they were part of. In the case of delegate attendees of junior rank (such as personal assistants) I request their position but am happy for you to exclude information covered under Section 40 (Personal Information). Please indicate where appropriate when information has been withheld for this reason.

As the delegates are public figures I hope you encounter no issues in supplying me with this information as I consider that most delegates would anticipate this information to be in the public domain. For example, attached is a document listing delegates I already know to have attended DSEi 2013 from a simple web search."

Please find attached a csv file with the details that you have requested.

The information supplied is about delegations that UKTI DSO assisted as we do not hold information on the entire event which is run by Clarion, who would hold the information about other delegates who may be invited by Clarion, or who applied through their website etc.

Some information has been withheld under the following exemptions:
Section 27 sub section (1) (a)&(c) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') exempts information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between the UK and any other state or the interest of UK abroad. It is a qualified exemption and we have considered the public interest test arguments.

We acknowledge there is a public interest in the Department whenever possible providing transparency about its engagement with Overseas Governments and the release of this information would increase public knowledge of the UK's diplomatic relations. However, against this it can be argued that the effective conduct of international relationships depends upon maintaining trust and confidence of Governments of other nations.

Whereas every effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this document is accurate, neither UK Trade & Investment nor its parent Departments (the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office), accept liability for any errors, omissions or misleading statements, and no warranty is given or responsibility accepted as to the standing of any individual, firm, company or other organisation mentioned.
There is a strong public interest in withholding information that concerns another state and disclosure of this information is likely to prejudice the relationship between UK Government and the Government of another nation. This may lead to a breakdown of cooperation and have a detrimental impact on current and future negotiations and diplomatic relations. Therefore, after careful consideration of this information where section 27 has been applied, we have decided that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information requested.

Section 40 of the Act provides an exemption for personal data. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which then falls to be dealt under the Data Protection Act. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act. Many of the additional attendees are of junior rank (such as personal assistants), and are merely attending in support of the invited delegate. To release the names of these junior officials, or where someone has specifically said do not release, we feel would be unfair and in breach of the Data Protection Act.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit (FOI.Requests@bis.gsi.gov.uk).

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wimslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

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