Dear Sir,

20 December 2013

FOI 13-1511

I wrote to you on 22 November stating we were still considering our response to your request:

"Richard Paniguian, Chris Baker, Air Vice-Marshal Nigel Maddox, David Hatcher, Deputy to RD and senior security advisor, Alan Malpas, Chief of Staff & DSO Senior Army advisor, Assistant Director - Gulf, Keith Venables, and Assistant Director - Support to Business.

To restate my request, I would like a list of the meetings and functions related to DSEi 2013 that were attended by the UKTI DSO staff named above. I would like these to cover the week of DSEi and a week either side, i.e. from 2nd to 20th September 2013. I do not need meetings which comprised only UKTI DSO staff.

For each member of staff, please provide a list of their meetings/functions and include:
- the date, length and location of each meeting/function
- a list of all those present (with names and positions for politicians and senior officials, and positions for those to whom Section 40 exemptions are applied)
- and the purpose of the meeting."

Please find attached a csv file of the meetings recorded.

I have de-duplicated meetings when more than one of the staff you requested have attended the same event, but have annotated the spreadsheet so you can identify the 4 staff requested although they are marked as s40. Please note that Chris Baker left UKTI DSO before DSEI took place. I have included the meetings of Simon Cholerton who replaced Chris Baker as OpsD for UKTI DSO.

I have not included escort duties where an official may have escorted a delegate or other official as they do not form a part of the discussion at any meetings and indeed would not have made any notes.

Key to spreadsheet:
S40(a) - Chief of Staff & DSO Senior Army advisor
S40(b) - Deputy to RD and senior security advisor
S40(c) - Assistant Director - Support to Business
S40(d) - Assistant Director - Gulf

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.
The exemptions used in this request are:
Section 27 (International Relations). Section 27 sub section (1) (a)(c) of 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.

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 each document where section 27 has been applied, we have decided that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information requested.

Section 40 (Personal information). Section 40(2) provides an absolute exemption for personal data 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. The additional staff requested are not publicly known figures and we do not think that it is fair to release to release the names of these individuals and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

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

UKTI Defence & Security Organisation
Policy & Resources Secretariat

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