Dear [Redacted]

FOI 2015/03029

Thank you for your e-mail of 11 February, where you requested the following information:

"I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act to request a list of meetings of the following UKTI DSO senior staff members during the last Farnborough International Airshow (14-20 July 2014):

Richard Paniguian, Simon Cholerton, Air Vice-Marshal Nigel Maddox, David Hatcher, Deputy to RD and senior army advisor, Alan Maipas, Chief of Staff & DSO Senior Army advisor, Assistant Director - Gulf, Keith Venables, and Assistant Director - Support to Business.

I would like a list of the meetings and functions related to Farnborough that were attended by the UKTI DSO staff named above. I would like these to cover the week of Farnborough and a week either side, i.e. from 7th to 25th July 2014. 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."

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

• know whether we hold the information you require
• be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).
The Information Rights Unit wrote to you on 11 March and again on 10th April confirming that the Department held information falling within the terms of your request but that we required more time to consider your request as there are exemptions which apply to some of the information you requested including s27 (International relations) and s43 (Commercial interests) which had to be considered against the balance of public interest.

Please find attached a csv file of the meetings requested, gathered from information held in programmes and diaries for Farnborough International Airshow. In some cases the entry does not include all the information you requested and where this is the case "Not recorded" has been noted in the table. Whenever meetings are known not to have happened or where representatives were confirmed as not attending they have been removed from the list as not in scope. Given that the diary entries are made in advance of the meetings and are therefore plans of what would happen, the information recorded is not necessarily an accurate record of what happened, e.g. it may or may not have happened, the recorded reps may not have been there, the location may have changed etc.

There are 2 meetings listed as being held with William Hague on 17th July 2014. As you may be aware Philip Hammond took over as Foreign Secretary on 15th July 2014. We have listed the meetings as with William Hague as that is what was recorded during the planning of Farnborough International Airshow, but I have been advised that Philip Hammond actually attended these meeting as the Foreign Secretary.

I have included the meetings of Sophie Lane who replaced Alan Malpas and attended FIAS 2014.

We do not hold any information that fall within the scope of your request for Keith Venables, Deputy to RD/Chief of Staff and DSO Senior Army Advisor, and AD Gulf.

The exemptions used in this request are:

Section 27 sub sections (1)(a) and (1)(c) of the Act - this exempts information if its disclosure under the 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 Government 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 relationship depends upon maintaining trust and confidence of Government of other nations. For this reason, we believe that the public interest in withholding this information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.
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 (DPA). 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 the disclosure must be fair and lawful, and must comply with one of the conditions in schedule 2 of the DPA. We do not believe that it would be fair to release the names and positions of civil servants, company employees and names of delegates attending the meeting. Where we think it is fair to disclose their personal data we have released this information. However, in circumstances where we do not think that it would be fair to disclose that information this has been withheld.

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 sent to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit  
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H OET  
E-mail: foi.request@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above 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 for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.