



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

22 April 2008

Our ref: 0257/08

Andrew Tyrie MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Counter Terrorism Department  
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London  
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Dear Mr Tyrie

I am writing further to your recent letter to the Foreign Secretary requesting the release of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

You asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to release information relating to 28 separate requests. Some of these requests are specific and could be actioned separately within the statutory limits. However, many are wider, without a specific time bracket and are unspecific with regard to the documents sought. Taken together as one request the requests made in your letter would require significant time and resources to enable us discharge our obligations to you under the Act.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provisions for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. We estimate that to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested would exceed the statutory limit of £600 or 3.5 days. This limit is specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We will not, therefore, be processing your request further.

At this time I can neither confirm nor deny that the FCO holds information falling within the descriptions specified in all your requests as a full search has not as yet been undertaken. However, if you decided to make a new request specifying a narrower category of information, it might be possible to comply with that request within the appropriate limit.

Therefore, it may be helpful if I outline some possible ways of narrowing your request.

- 1) Many of the requests seek "all information" relating to an individual or topic. You may wish to narrow your criteria to specific documents.
- 2) You may wish to specify more restrictive dates for several of the requests.
- 3) You may wish to prioritise the 28 requests in order of importance, sending them in batches to the FCO to respond to if you wish to pursue all 28 over a more extended

period of time. You should note that under s.12(4) we are able to aggregate separately made FOI requests.

Please note all documents and information would still be assessed and their release would be subject to any exclusions that apply as specified under the Act (sections 21-44).

If you or the co-ordinator of your Group, Stuart McCracken, have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please include the reference number above in any future communications.

Separately I understand that Simon Manley's office will be in contact shortly to ask whether you would like to meet with him at the FCO further to the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House of Commons on rendition.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your FOI request and wish to make a complaint, or request a review of our decision you should write to me at the above address. You have 40 working days to do so.

Finally if you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaint procedure provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



Ben Prosser  
Counter Terrorism Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office