

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 17 February 2023

**Public Authority:** Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

**Address:** King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

#### **Decision (including any steps ordered)**

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1. The complainant has requested minutes of a cross-government group.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the above public authority is entitled to rely on section 23 of FOIA and does not need to take further steps.

#### **Request and response**

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3. On 7 October 2022, the complainant wrote to the above public authority and requested copies of minutes of the National Security Liaison Group.
4. The above public authority responded on 1 November 2022. Its final position was to rely on section 23 of FOIA to withhold the information.

#### **Reasons for decision**

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5. The Commissioner recognises the complainant's interest in transparency. However, the broad reach of this exemption has been confirmed by FOIA caselaw.
6. For the same reasoning given in decision notice [IC-211046-V6R1](#), the Commissioner is satisfied that section 23 of FOIA applies here.

## Right of appeal

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7. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)  
GRC & GRP Tribunals,  
PO Box 9300,  
LEICESTER,  
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: [grc@justice.gov.uk](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

8. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
9. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Signed .....**

**Roger Cawthorne**  
**Senior Case Officer**  
**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
**Cheshire**  
**SK9 5AF**