



Information Commissioner's Office  
Promoting public access to official information  
and protecting your personal information

## ICO Disclosure Log - Response to Request

**Request Ref:** FOI/433  
**Date of Response:** 05 February 2006

**Please could you provide me with copies of all decision notices made by the Commissioners since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 with regard to national security, defence and international relations, whether or not the Commissioners over ruled the public authority.**

We have interpreted this as meaning notices which relate to these particular exemptions – that is, sections 23, 24, 26 and 27 of the Freedom of Act – rather than simply those relating to these general areas. Please let me know if this is not what you intended.

All Decision Notices issued by the ICO are published on our website ([www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)) and so we so we will not be providing you with hard copies. This is therefore technically a refusal of your request under s.21 of the Act, which states that information is exempt if it is reasonably accessible elsewhere.

Please find below details of the seven relevant Decision Notices.

### **Decision Notices relating to sections 23, 24, 26 or 27**

**Case Ref:** FER0071799

**Date:** 11/04/06

**Public Authority:** UK Trade & Investment (UKTI)

**Summary:** Several documents were disclosed in response to a request for information concerning the West Africa Gas Pipeline and the Chad/Cameroon petroleum Development and Pipeline project. However UKTI withheld various documents on the grounds that their release would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of international relations and that they contained personal data. The Commissioner examined the documents and considered that release of the information would be detrimental to both relationships between the UK and other states, and to working relations between the government and international financial institutions. These outcomes would in turn affect the government's ability to protect and promote the UK's interests overseas. The Commissioner therefore decided that the withheld documents should not be released.

**Section of Act/EIR & Finding:** FOI s.27 and s.40 – Complaint Not Upheld, EIR 12(5)(a) – Complaint Not Upheld

Full Transcript of Decision Notice available on ICO website under FER0071799

**Case Ref: FS5072182**

**Date: 26/07/06**

**Public Authority: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

**Summary:** The complainant requested a copy of a UK/US agreement regarding signals intelligence. The Foreign Office refused to release the information and to confirm or deny that the information was held, citing section 23 (security matters), section 24 (national security) and section 27 (international relations). The Commissioner's decision in this matter is that the public authority should have provided a fuller explanation of the grounds of refusal. However, in other respects, the Commissioner finds that it has dealt with the complainant's request in accordance with part 1 of the Act. In the light of this, the Commissioner requires no steps to be taken to achieve compliance with the requirements of the Act.

**Section of Act/EIR & Finding:** FOI s.17, s.23, s.24 and s.27 – Complaint Not Upheld  
Full Transcript of Decision Notice available on ICO website under FS5072182

**Case Ref: FS50075177**

**Date 27/07/06**

**Public Authority: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

**Summary:** The complainant requested all communication between the FCO and Sir John Weston in connection to a contract relating to the UN oil-for-food programme. Fragments of text were released from some documents, but the majority of the information was withheld under sections 27 (international relations) and section 36 (prejudice to the conduct of public affairs). The Commissioner has decided that these exemptions are engaged and that the public interest requires that further information should not be disclosed. Accordingly there is no remedial action that the Commissioner requires the FCO to take beyond the agreed provision of a letter and parts of a telegram.

**Section of Act/EIR & Finding:** FOI s.27 – Complaint Not Upheld; FOI s.36 Complaint Not Upheld

Full Transcript of Decision Notice available on ICO website under FS50075177

**Case Ref: FS5069110**

**Date: 26/07/06**

**Public Authority: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

**Summary:** The complainant made two requests for information. The first was for information relating to any discussions that took place between the FCO and the US authorities regarding the importation into the UK of redundant US naval vessels. The second was for information relating to the handling of this request. Although the FCO confirmed that the information relating to the first request was held, it refused to provide a copy of it in reliance on the exemption relating to international relations (section 27). Although the Commissioner accepts that the requested information is exempt, he considers that the public interest requires disclosure. In respect of the second request, although the Commissioner is satisfied that most of the requested information was provided this was not done within the period for response provide by the Act.

**Section of Act & Finding:** FOI s.10 and 27 – Complaint Upheld

Full Transcript of Decision Notice available on ICO website under FS5069110

**Case Ref: FS50069105**

**Date: 07/07/06**

**Public Authority: Legal Secretariat of the Law Officers (LCLG)**

**Summary:** The complainant requested information relating to the advice given by the Attorney General to the Government on the legality of military action in Iraq. The public authority refused to supply the information citing the exemptions in sections 27, 25 and 52 of the Act. The Commissioner has investigated this case together with a number of other complaints about requests for similar information, and the investigation resulted in an Enforcement Notice being served on the LSLO on 22 May 2006. This ordered the LSLO to produce a Disclosure Statement setting out information within the scope of the request which led to or supported the conclusions made public by the Attorney General on the 17 March 2003 Statement. A Disclosure Statement which met the Commissioner's requirements was annexed to the Enforcement Notice. The Commissioner has decided that in failing to supply the information which led to or supported the Attorney General's conclusions (except that exempt under section 27) the public authority failed to comply with section 1(1) and 10. However, the Disclosure Statement attached to the Enforcement Notice met the Commissioner's requirements for disclosure and therefore he had not ordered the LSLO to take any further remedial steps in this Disclosure Notice.

**Section of Act/EIR & Finding:** FOI s.1(1) and 10 – Complaint Partially Upheld; s.27 – Complaint Not Upheld; s.35 and 42 – Complaint Partially Upheld

Full Transcript of Decision Notice available on ICO website under FS50069105

**Case Ref: FS50064590**

**Date: 07/07/06**

**Public Authority: Legal Secretariat of the Law Officers (LSLO)**

**Summary:** The complainant requested information relating to the advice given by the Attorney General to the Government on the legality of military action in Iraq. The public authority refused to supply the information citing the exemptions in sections 27, 25 and 42 of the Act. The Commissioner has investigated this case together with a number of other complaints about requests for similar information, and the investigation resulted in an Enforcement Notice being served on the LSLO on 22 May 2006. This ordered the LSLO to produce a Disclosure Statement setting out information within the scope of the request which led to or supported the conclusions made public by the Attorney General in the 17 March 2003 statement. A Disclosure Statement which met the Commissioner's requirements was annexed to the Enforcement Notice. The Commissioner has decided that in failing to supply the information which led to or supported the Attorney General's conclusions (except that exempt under section 27) the public authority failed to comply with section 1(1) and 10. However, the Disclosure Statement attached to the Enforcement Notice met the Commissioner's requirements for disclosure and therefore he had not ordered the LSLO to take any further remedial steps in this Disclosure Notice.

**Section of Act/EIR & Finding:** FOI s.1(1) and 10 – Complaint Partially Upheld; s.27 – Complaint Not Upheld; s.35 and 42 – Complaint Partially Upheld

Full Transcript of Decision Notice available on ICO website under FS50064590

**Case Ref: FS50063472**

**Date: 07/07/06**

**Public Authority: Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers (LSLO)**

**Summary:** The complainant requested information relating to the advice given by the Attorney General to the Government on the legality of military action in Iraq, which the public authority refused to supply citing the exemptions in sections 35 and 42 of the Act. The Commissioner has investigated this case together with a number of other complaints about requests for similar information, and the investigation resulted in an Enforcement Notice served on the LSLO on 22 May 2006. This ordered the LSLO to produce a Disclosure Statement setting out information within the scope of the request which led to or supported the conclusions made public by the Attorney General in the 17 March 2003 Statement. A Disclosure Statement which met the Commissioner's requirements was annexed to the Enforcement Notice. The Commissioner has decided that in failing to supply the information which led to or supported the Attorney General's conclusions (except that exempt under section 27) the public authority failed to comply with section 1(1) and 10. However, the Disclosure Statement attached to the Enforcement Notice met the Commissioner's requirements for disclosure and therefore he had not ordered the LSLO to take any further remedial steps in this Decision Notice.

**Section of Act/EIR & Finding:** FOI s.1 (1) and 10 – Complaint Partially Upheld; s.27 – Complaint Not Upheld; s.35 and 42 - Complaint Partially Upheld

Full transcript of Decision Notice available on ICO website under FS50063472