



Ms Nina Cross



23 November 2021

Dear Ms Cross,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI2021/28809

Thank you for your email of 25th October asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I am therefore requesting the following information:

- 1. Information on the protocols around the deletion and disposal of communications between the Foreign Office and the BBC and other media organisations*
- 2. policies or information about the protocols of government officials, and specifically the Foreign Secretary, when contacting or arranging interviews with the BBC and other media organisations*
- 3. policies or information about the appropriate tracking of telephone communications between government officials, including specifically the Foreign Secretary or their representatives, when contacting the BBC and other media organisations*
- 4. the contact details/title/department used by the Foreign Secretary's office when dealing with BBC Politics*
- 5. the name of the location where Jeremy Hunt was interviewed on 11th April 2019 by BBC Politics*
- 6. clarification or information showing the agenda of the interview, indicating whether the interview segment about Julian Assange was part of a wider interview on other topics or whether it was the only item discussed*
- 7. the name of the BBC interviewer*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) does hold information relevant to your request. We have placed our answers into the questions for ease of reference for yourself.

1. Information on the protocols around the deletion and disposal of communications between the Foreign Office and the BBC and other media organisations

ANSWER-The FCDO retention schedules explain how long the FCDO retains

information and when records are disposed of.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-commonwealth-development-office-fcdo-retention-schedule>

2. policies or information about the protocols of government officials, and specifically the Foreign Secretary, when contacting or arranging interviews with the BBC and other media organisations

3. policies or information about the appropriate tracking of telephone communications between government officials, including specifically the Foreign Secretary or their representatives, when contacting the BBC and other media organisations

4. the contact details/title/department used by the Foreign Secretary's office when dealing with BBC Politics

ANSWER-for parts 2 – 4

The FCDO communications team handle media engagement and, like other government department and agency communication teams, is part of a professional body – the Government Communication Service (GCS). The GCS set best practice standards for communication teams across Whitehall. The FCDO Newsdesk deal with reactive requests from the media to interview ministers and also proactively set them up when required.

5. the name of the location where Jeremy Hunt was interviewed on 11th April 2019 by BBC Politics

ANSWER- The interview took place in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in King Charles Street, London.

6. clarification or information showing the agenda of the interview, indicating whether the interview segment about Julian Assange was part of a wider interview on other topics or whether it was the only item discussed

ANSWER- The interview was specifically arranged for the Foreign Secretary to give a comment on the arrest of Mr Assange.

7. the name of the BBC interviewer

ANSWER- We have no record of who conducted this interview for the BBC.

The copies of information being supplied to you continue to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCDO will have been produced by government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives website.

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non-Crown Copyright) information.

If you would like to request a review of our decision please email us at:

information.rights@fcdo.gov.uk or write to: Information Rights Unit, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Room WG.75, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. Please note you have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCDO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, or online at: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

For information about how the FCDO handles personal information please see our [Personal Information Charter](#)