



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Near East Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

Andy Worms
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06 August 2018

Dear Mr Worms,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0563-18

Thank you for your email of 26 May 2018 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“The day of prince Harry and Meghan's wedding the British Embassy in Tel Aviv hosted an event to watch the wedding.

I would like to receive the following information regarding the event hosted by the British Embassy:

- 1) list of invitees*
- 2) list of actual attendees*
- 3) budget*
- 4) list of suppliers, amount payed to each and service or product provided.”*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

Please find attached the information the FCO can release to you. The answers to your first two questions are personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

In response to your third question, the final cost of this event was £30,773. The difference between the final cost of the event and the total cost of suppliers in the attached document is due to internal costs. We received £17,500 sponsorship for this event.

In relation to your fourth question, we considered this information under section 43 (Commercial interests). The use of this exemption was carefully considered. The factors in

favour of disclosure of this information including the general public interest and greater transparency and accountability, were carefully weighed against the general need to allow business-people and commercial organisations the space to conduct their lawful business competitively and without fear of disclosure of sensitive commercial information. In this case after such consideration we believe that the public interest in withholding the limited amount of information which has been redacted, information outweighs the public interest in its release.

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If you would like to request a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Central FOI Unit at Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH, or by e-mail to foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk. Please note that you have 40 working days from the date of this letter in which to submit a request for an internal review.

If you are not content with the outcome of the above, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of our response. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only carry out a review once you have exhausted the internal FCO complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Near East Department



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.