



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Sam Green

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1 December 2009

Dear Sam

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: 1025-09**

Thank you for your request dated 24 November 2009, under the Freedom of Information Act. You asked that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) should disclose:

**Request for information relating to Mr. Rowan Laxton:**

- 1. What is the current status of Mr Rowan Laxton?**
- 2. What disciplinary procedures has he been subject to, what was the outcome of those procedures, and what are the relevant dates?**
- 3. It was reported that he was suspended earlier in 2009. When exactly was he suspended, and, if relevant, when did that suspension end?**
- 4. What were the terms of his suspension? Did he undertake any duties during that period?**
- 5. Has the FCO taken any other internal action or enquiry as a result of Mr Laxton's conviction, beyond his disciplinary procedure?**
- 6. Has the FCO made any public statement or comment on Mr Laxton's conviction in September 2009 for racially aggravated disorder?**

I can confirm that the FCO does hold information to answer part of your request. And our official response is:

We can confirm that a member of FCO staff (Mr Laxton) was convicted, on 24 September, of a Public Order offence.

The FCO takes very seriously any suggestion of inappropriate behaviour by its staff.

The case has been dealt with under our internal misconduct procedures. Mr Laxton was issued with a final written warning putting him on notice for the next 12 months.

Any other information is exempt under section 40(2) and (3) of the FOIA as disclosure would breach the first data principle which states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40 is an absolute exemption, so does not require the application of a public interest test

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt.

If you are unhappy with the way the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. You should contact Jan Trestain within 40 working days ([jan.trestain@fco.gov.uk](mailto:jan.trestain@fco.gov.uk)) if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

*Jan*

Jan Trestain  
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