



3 September 2008

Dear Mr Mills

**Request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

Thank you for your email of 7 August 2008 in which you requested, and I quote:

‘a list of all seminars, conferences or meetings hosted by or affiliated with the Centre for Terrorism and Political Violence that were attended by members, employees or representatives of the government of the United Kingdom or the United States, a law enforcement agency of the United Kingdom or the United States or any other state institution whatsoever.

Please also provide where relevant:

- lists of speakers and titles
- lists of all participants
- copies of all the presentations
- copies of any reports/minutes on the events
- details of any remuneration received by participants’

I attach the information that is held by the University of St Andrews that is relevant to your request. Please note that there is no ‘list of seminars, conferences or meetings hosted by or affiliated with the Centre for Terrorism and Political Violence that were attended by members, employees or representatives of the government of the United Kingdom or the United States, a law enforcement agency of the United Kingdom or the United States or any other state institution whatsoever’ held by the University dating earlier than 2002/2003.

**Seminars**

Our seminar series is held on a Thursday, attended by academic staff in the University, and is also open to all students of the University. The attached announcements (which I have consolidated into a single document for your convenience: *seminarlist\_full.doc*) are those which are used to advertise the events. For ease of reference and in order to better meet the specific wording of your request, I have also created from a list of the seminars and speakers in chronological order (*seminarlist.doc*). There is no record of attendees or minutes of the seminars kept and no remuneration is paid to participants. Speakers’ UK travel, one night’s accommodation and meal expenses are paid.

**Meetings**

Minutes of the Terrorism Studies Programme Board meeting are attached from May 2006 and October 2007. These detail attendees and outcomes. Again, no remuneration is paid to board members. Their travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses are paid.

## Conferences

The Centre's annual *International Terrorism Conference 2007* was held at Georgetown University, Washington DC, on 13 -14 June 2007. Copies of the programme, presentations and lists of attendees for the *International Terrorism Conference* for 2007 and previous years are not held by the University but are held by Eden Intelligence as conference organisers. Information that is made publicly available by them, such as conference programmes, is accessible via their website: <http://www.edenintelligence.com/>

*The International Terrorism Conference 2008* is yet to take place and is not therefore within the scope of your request as stated, but may nonetheless be of interest. Further details, including confirmed contributors, are publicly available from Royal United Services Institute's website: <http://www.rusi.org/events/ref:E48454259CD2CD/>

*The International Terrorism and Energy Security Conference* was held on 15 – 16 June 2006. The University holds a draft programme for this event, which originated from Eden Intelligence and was clearly marked as being 'Confidential' and for internal use only. Eden Intelligence has informed us in writing that they would object to the release of this document and would consider taking legal action against the University in the event of its unauthorised disclosure. The University is therefore withholding the document under the exemption under Section 36 of the Act: Confidentiality. The exemption reads:

- (1) *Information in respect of which a claim to confidentiality of communications could be maintained in legal proceedings is exempt information.*
- (2) *Information is exempt information if—*
  - a. *it was obtained by a Scottish public authority from another person (including another such authority); and*
  - b. *its disclosure by the authority so obtaining it to the public (otherwise than under this Act) would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that person or any other person.*

No further relevant information is held by the University with regard to this conference, other than that published on the Centre's website: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~cstpv/about/services.php>  
The final programme and any other relevant information are held by Eden Intelligence as Conference Organisers.

I attach a scan of a file copy of *The Washington Conference on Port Security, Maritime Intelligence and Counter-Proliferation* (2004) programme. No further relevant information is held by the University with regard to this conference.

With regard to the *International Conference on Terrorism and Human Rights* held in St Andrews between 13-15 July 2003, a selection of papers presented at the conference were subsequently made publicly available in a special issue of the journal *Terrorism and Political Violence*. Copyright of this publication is held by Taylor & Francis Inc. and we hold no authority to make copies of this publication for communication to the public as to do so would be to infringe copyright law. Further information on accessing this publication may be acquired from [www.taylorandfrancis.com](http://www.taylorandfrancis.com). Please note that a subscription to the journal may be required.

*Terrorism and Political Violence*, 17:3-8, 2005  
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This information is classed as ‘otherwise available’ with regard to the exemption under section 25 of the Act, which states:

- (1) *Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.*
- (2) *For the purposes of subsection (1), information—*
  - (a) *may be reasonably obtainable even if payment is required for access to it;*

No further relevant information is held by the University on this conference.

The University’s website contains a news release concerning the 2002 conference *Islamic Extremism and Terrorism in the Greater Middle East*:

[http://calvin.st-andrews.ac.uk/external\\_relations/news\\_article.cfm?reference=323](http://calvin.st-andrews.ac.uk/external_relations/news_article.cfm?reference=323)

No further relevant information is held by the University on this event.

## **Speakers and Titles**

Information relating to speakers and titles has been supplied where listed.

## **Participant Lists**

Copies of participant lists are not held by the University of St Andrews but, where these are in existence, by conference organisers.

## **Presentations**

Copies of presentations are not held by the University of St Andrews as these are held by the conference organisers.

## **Minutes and Reports**

The University does not hold any further minutes or reports for the above-mentioned events. Section 8(1)(a) of the Act refers to information which ‘is in writing or in another form which, by reason of its having some permanency, is capable of being used for subsequent reference (as, for example, a recording made on audio or video tape’. However, meetings are held on a ‘Chatham House Rule’ basis (i.e. not recorded in any form, please see Eden Intelligence website under Events for a declaration to this effect) to enable free speech and it has therefore been agreed that no minutes or reports will be produced or any other record of discussions will be kept for these meetings and conferences.

## **Remuneration**

No remuneration has been received by any person associated with a seminar, conference or meeting hosted or affiliated with the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, University of St Andrews.

## Further Information

The University of St Andrews is unable to reveal whether or not further information exists relevant to the request, under section 18 of the Act, where this information, if held, relates to matters of National Security and Defence or to Law Enforcement and would be exempt information with regard to the exemptions under sections 28 to 35, 39(1) or 41 of the Act, which refer respectively to:

- 28 – Relations within the United Kingdom
- 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy etc.
- 30 – Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs
- 31 – National Security and Defence
- 32 – International Relations
- 33 – Commercial Interests and the Economy
- 34 – Investigations by Scottish public authorities and proceedings arising out of such investigations
- 35 – Law enforcement
- 39 – Health, safety and the environment
  - (1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of an individual.
- 41 – Communications with Her Majesty etc. and honours

If the information existed or was held by the University the exemption under sections 31 and 35 would apply as disclosure would, or would be likely to, pose a risk to National Security and Defence and to Law Enforcement. The University is not required to consider the public interest test when applying the exemption under sections 31 and 35 of the Act in the current circumstances. I refer you to section 18(2) of the Act. This letter therefore constitutes a refusal notice by virtue of section 18 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act).

To quote section 18 of the Act:

- (1) Where, if information existed and was held by a Scottish public authority, the authority could give a refusal notice under section 16(1) on the basis that the information was exempt information by virtue of any of sections 28 to 35, 39(1) or 41 but the authority considers that to reveal whether the information exists or is so held would be contrary to the public interest, it may (whether or not the information does exist and is held by it) give the applicant a refusal notice by virtue of this section.*
- (2) Neither paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 16 nor subsection (2) of that section applies as respects a refusal notice given by virtue of this section.*

## Review Procedure

If you are not satisfied with how the University has dealt with your request you are entitled to ask the University to review its decision.

A request for review should:

- Be sent to the FOI Officer at the address below

- Be made in writing (either by letter, email or fax) or in some other recorded form, (e.g. audio or video tape)
- State your name and an address for correspondence
- Describe your original request and the reasons why you are seeking a review
- Be made within forty working days after the date of this letter. (While not obliged to, the University may choose to comply with a request for review made after the expiry of the time allowed)

Once your request for review has been received, the University must, unless your request is withdrawn or is either vexatious or repeated, review its decision and advise you of the outcome and reasons for that outcome within twenty working days. You will also be notified within twenty working days if your request for review is considered to be either vexatious or repeated.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the review you can lodge an appeal with the Scottish Information Commissioner. The Commissioner's contact details are:

Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
SCOTLAND  
KY16 9DS

Tel: 44 (0) 1334 464610  
Fax: 44 (0) 1334 464611  
Email: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Please note that any complaint you may make to the University concerning the University's handling of your request will be treated as though you had made a request for review. The University's review procedure is available at <http://foi.st-andrews.ac.uk/doc.jsp?id=1510>

If you have any questions please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Nicki Brain  
FOI Officer  
Business Improvements  
University of St Andrews  
Butts Wynd  
St. Andrews, Fife  
SCOTLAND  
KY16 9AL

Tel: 44 (0) 1334 461780  
Fax: 44 (0) 1334 462759  
Email: [foi@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:foi@st-andrews.ac.uk)