



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
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Minister of State for
Europe and the Americas

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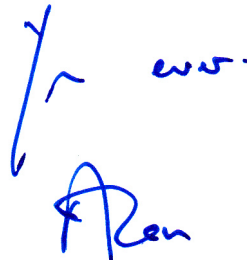
James Cartlidge MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear James,

Thank you for your email of 11 January enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Professor Tim Crook, Kiln Cottage, Woodgates Road, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex CO7 6RE, about the transfer of a historical file (FO 1093/263) from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to The National Archives. I am replying as the FCO Minister with responsibility for information and technology.

Government Departments are required to transfer material selected for permanent preservation to The National Archives (TNA) under the provisions of the Public Records Act (PRA). The main file, FO 1093/263, entitled "*C, Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS): report on the Egyptian ambassador*" has already been transferred from the FCO to TNA under the PRA where it is publicly available at Kew. The FCO retained an extract from the file on grounds of sensitivity under Section 3(4) of the PRA. The First-tier Tribunal of 19 April 2016, which considered Professor Crook's appeal under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), found that the FCO was entitled to withhold the file extract under FOIA Section 23(1) (information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters).

In light of the enquiry from your constituent we have carried out a further sensitivity review of a copy of the material in question. The review has concluded that the material remains sensitive under Section 3(4) of the PRA.

 Alan Duncan

RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP