



Ms. Rachael Tackett

By email: [politynews@gmx.com](mailto:politynews@gmx.com)

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Multilateral Organisations  
and Human rights**

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**Contact**

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**Reference**

MINBUZA-2014.723891

Date 30 January 2015  
Re Decision on Wob application

Dear Ms Tackett,

In your email received on 2 December 2014, you requested information concerning public documents about Digital Defenders Partnership (DDP) and Freedom Online Coalition (FOC), invoking the Government Information (Public Access) Act (*Wet openbaarheid van bestuur; Wob*).

By letter of 18 December 2014 with reference no. MINBUZA-2014.723891 the time limit for taking a decision on the application was extended by four weeks until 30 January 2015.

**Statutory framework**

Your application falls within the scope of the Government Information (Public Access) Act.

**Specification of documents**

In response to your application, several documents have been found. These documents are listed in the specification enclosed with this decision as Annexe 1.

**Decision**

I have decided to partially grant your application and to disclose the information you will find attached as Annexe 1. The reasons for refusal of information are set out in this decision.

**Considerations**

You have requested information on the Digital Defenders Partnership (DDP) and the Freedom Online Coalition (FOC). Documents on the DDP and the financing by the ministry (project proposal, bemo, grant, reports, minutes, emails, letters and internal documents) you will find attached. Documents on the FOC can be found on their public website ([www.freedomonlinecoalition.com](http://www.freedomonlinecoalition.com)). The site contains information on the organisation, membership, conferences and presentations and reports. As this information is already public and accessible the Government Information (Public Access) Act does not apply. Information on the financing of the FOC by the ministry (bemo and grant) you will find attached.

In these documents several names of people involved are not disclosed to preserve their privacy. For this purpose I invoke section 10, subsection 2, opening words and (e), of the Government Information (Public Access) Act. This interest outweighs the interest of disclosure.



Several names of organisations and description of their activities in the documents are also not disclosed. Publication of their names and/or activities could form a security risk for these organisations and their employees and would interfere with and/or obstruct them from implementing their activities. This would disproportionately disadvantage the position of those organisations and also of the Minister as this would make it difficult or impossible to realize all the policy goals. The public interest served by disclosure of this information is outweighed by the importance of preventing this disproportionate disadvantage to the organisations and the Minister. I therefore refuse publication of the documents concerned on the basis of section 10, subsection 2, opening words and (g), of the Government Information (Public Access) Act.

**Date**  
30 January 2015

**Our reference**  
MINBUZA-2014.723891

Yours sincerely,

Alexandra Valkenburg-Roelofs  
Head of the Human Rights and Political and Legal Affairs Division  
For the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Within six weeks after this decision is sent, a notice of objection may be lodged. The notice of objection must be signed and dated and include the name and address of the person submitting it, a description of the decision against which the objection is being lodged and the grounds on which it is based. The notice of objection should be addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Multilateral Organisations and Human Rights, PO Box 20061, 2500 EB, Den Haag.