

Foreign Affairs Committee

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In December 2017, it was reported in the media that a large number of important Government papers temporarily loaned from the National Archives by government departments have been lost. The Foreign Affairs Committee would like the FCO to respond to these allegations and to provide answers to the following questions:

- Approximately how many files has the FCO withdrawn from the National Archives since 2013?
- How many of those files withdrawn from the National Archives by the FCO are considered lost? What subject matter do those lost files cover?
- What measures is the FCO taking to recover the lost files?
- How does the FCO manage the transfer of files to the National Archives from its facility in Hanslope Park? What steps does it take to ensure the security of files borrowed?
- Have any disciplinary actions been taken, or are any being considered, in relation to the lost files?
- What procedures does the FCO have in place to ensure openness and transparency in the transfer of files to and from the National Archives?

The Committee is considering launching an enquiry into Foreign Office archive retention and publication. We would therefore like the FCO to respond by Tuesday 12 June.

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair