

Note TXS A248/07

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to all Diplomatic Missions in London and has the honour to remind them of the procedures for security arrangements for VIP visitors to the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom provides personal protection for those VIPs who are covered under the terms of the United Nations Convention on Internationally Protected Persons and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, eg Heads of State, Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers.

Diplomatic & VIP Security Section in Protocol Directorate is the first point of contact on all security matters relating to a VIP visit, including a request for protection. It is therefore important that, when protection is requested, as much information as possible on arrival and departure dates, times and airports, accommodation and programme details, as well as on accompanying officials and security/protection officers, is sent to Diplomatic & VIP Security Section immediately.

Diplomatic & VIP Security Section is also the point of contact for radio frequency requests. To clear a radio frequency, the following information is required: the band across which the equipment will tune; bandwidth of transmission (eg 12.5kHz) and power output of equipment (eg 3 watt). This information should be sent by fax to 020 7008 1026.

Delay in providing this information could hinder the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in meeting the Mission's request for assistance. It is Protocol Directorate's responsibility to liaise with the Metropolitan Police and other Agencies involved in the visit.

Missions are also reminded that under United Kingdom law, the carrying of firearms, batons, CS spray, tasers and knives by security/protection officers accompanying VIPs during a visit is not permitted.

Therefore any weapons brought into the United Kingdom by these officers must be surrendered on arrival to the appropriate United Kingdom Airport authorities for Safeguarding. Diplomatic & VIP Security Section would be grateful for details of all weapons brought into the United Kingdom. Missions should also notify airlines that weapons are present on the aircraft.

Protocol Directorate avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Diplomatic Missions in London the assurance of its highest consideration.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
LONDON SW1

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