FOI 0160-18 DIGEST OF INFORMATION HELD

From: (REDACTED)
Sent: 19 December 2017
To: (REDACTED)
Subject: Palm Oil & Possible Malaysian Sanctions

Dear (REDACTED)

I attended an EU HOMs meeting on 14 Dec where the issue of Palm Oil was discussed at length, with possible implications for the UK.

In short (a summary of a non-expert), the EU Parliament that are soon (19th Jan?) to have a vote on Palm Oil (REDACTED). This is likely to be resisted by the C'ion in Brussels (REDACTED), but (REDACTED) noted that this debate was already having an impact on relations with Malaysia (REDACTED).

(REDACTED). He was aware that the Malaysians were now drawing up a list of counter measures should the vote pass, and he cautioned they could well affect several sectors, irrespective of whether a country was a palm oil importer. (REDACTED)

COMMENT

This is a perennial EU issue, and I sensed little belief around the table some kind of negative impact could be halted. The concern is that of reciprocal trade measures by Malaysia against EU countries – which the UK is one of, (REDACTED). All of which is to ask whether this is something we should be taking a greater interest in? (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)
British High Commission, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia