

3 May 2012

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0442-12

'How much money is owed by foreign diplomats in respect of any legal charges including fines, damages, penalties and congestion charges.

Please provide the analysis by type and by country and age of the debt.

Please also state the value for each of the past 5 years of any amounts written off'.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds information on parking fines, the non-payment of non national domestic rates (NNDR), and Congestion Charge, relevant to the request.

Details of non- payment of Congestion Charge, NNDR and parking fines have been tabled in Parliament by the Foreign Secretary in June annually since 2006. This information is therefore exempted under Section 21 (information accessible by other means). Section 21 confers an absolute exemption and therefore, not subject to the public interest test. The latest written ministerial statement can be found at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/.../110719m0001.htm

Details of debts in 2011 will be published by the Foreign Secretary in his Written Ministerial Statement in June 2012. This information is therefore exempt under section 22 (information intended for future publication). This is a qualified exemption and is subject to the public interest test. We recognise releasing the information now would improve transparency. However, given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing the information, we consider that our publication timetable is reasonable.

For these reasons, we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.