

18 May 2012

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUESTS REF: 0449-12 and 0450-12

Thank you for your two emails which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) received on 18 April 2012. In both requests you asked for the following information:

"...a breakdown of the makes of all cars operated or owned by the Foreign Office in Washington. I would also like to know if you have statistics on how many of the cars (and what proportion) were manufactured in the UK" (0449-12).

You also asked for the same information for our mission in Brussels (0450-12).

I can confirm that the FCO holds the information you requested.

FCO posts purchase vehicles from manufacturers where this makes practical sense, provides good value for money and where maintenance and spare parts are readily available.

Washington:

Jaguar XJ (Flag Car) British
Ford Expedition EL USA
Lexus GS 450H Japanese
Mercedes GL 350 German
Ford Econoline Van USA
Ford F150 USA
Ford F250 USA
Chevy Suburban USA

The Embassy in Washington has a total of 450 staff across 18 UK government departments, including the FCO, MOD, HMT, DFT and Home Office. The vehicles are used by the Head of Post (flag car) and for the transportation of other staff to and from official meetings and functions. A number of the vehicles are also used by the Embassy's Estates team in the maintenance of staff residences, the official Residence and two Embassy buildings.

Brussels:

BMW 745iL Germany
VW Caravelle Germany
BMW 523i Germany
Toyota Prius Hybrid Japan
Jaguar XF 3.0 Diesel British
Jaguar XJ 3.0 Diesel British
Ford Galaxy 2.0 Diesel Belgium
Ford C-Max 1.6 Portugal
Ford Mondeo Estate 2.0 Belgium

The vehicles are for the use of the Ambassador and to serve officials from NATO, Welsh Office, Scottish Office, Northern Ireland Office and all VIP's visiting Brussels for different purposes e.g. Summits, Councils, bilateral meetings, etc. The vehicle pool also provides transport for the Luxembourg ministerial Councils.