

28 August 2012

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0829-12

Thank you for your request dated 26 July 2012 under the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked:

What is the total annual pay bill in the department; what is the total number of employees employed by the department for the last period for which figures are available, and how many of these employees earn

- (a) less than £21,000 per year;
- (b) £40,000 a year or over;
- (c) £45,000 a year or over; and
- (d) £50,000 a year or over.

Further, what proportion of the total pay bill (or absolute amount) is paid to (a) employees earning over £40,000 a year; (b) employees earning £45,000 a year or over; (c) employees earning £50,000 a year or over.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does hold information relevant to your request.

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested on the total annual pay bill for the FCO is published in the FCO's Annual Report and Accounts.

At 1 April 2012 the FCO employed 4,581 staff via its payroll subject to mandatory deductions for income tax and national insurance via pay as you earn (PAYE).

The table below gives the numbers of staff by band of earnings and the proportion this represents of the pay bill. Earnings include salary and all taxable allowances but exclude variable elements of pay such as overtime and performance related pay.

	Number of staff	Proportion of pay bill
Less than £21,000	295	3.32%
£40,000 or over	261	6.34%
£45,000 or over	352	9.43%
£50,000 or over	983	37.25%