



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Consular Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH
Email: FOI/DPATeam.Consular@fco.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

11 June 2015

Dear,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST: REF: FOI 0522-15

Thank you for your email of 29 May 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. Please could you tell me how many apostille issued by the FCO for 2014/15?***
- 2. What are the costs to the department in terms of money spent in paper?***
- 3. Has there been any research into how much it would cost to make this process digital?***

Outcome of Search and Disclosure

We have now completed our search and consultation process and I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information relevant to your request.

Our response to your specific questions, in the order they are set out above, is detailed below.

1. The Legalisation Office in the FCO issued 471,796 apostles between April 2014 and March 2015.
2. The Legalisation Office spent £10,710 on paper for the period April 2014 and March 2015.
3. The FCO has carried out some preliminary research into the advantages and disadvantages of moving to a digital service but has not looked at detailed costings. Our early evidence suggests that only a small number of countries are able or willing to



accept documents digitally, and many UK government departments are not yet issuing documents in this format. The FCO is, however, committed to moving to digitise the entire legalisation process once this is practicable; our immediate focus is to invest in the digital delivery of the application process as far as possible.

I hope the information released to you is useful and fully answers your request.

Publication and Copyright

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCO will have been produced by Government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. You can find details on the arrangement for re-using Crown Copyright information on the [TNA](#) website.

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non-Crown Copyright) information.

Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer

Consular Directorate

