



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Global Economic Issues Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

20 April 2016

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI-0231-16

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

"I would like to know the number of FCO diplomats/attaches for whom climate change is a formal part of their role. I understand the FCO runs a network of attaches in selected embassies worldwide.

Could you give me the figures for 2015/16? I'm looking for a like-for-like update to the figures provided in the following Fol request in May last year (FOI 0353-15)"

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

The FCO works actively across the international climate and energy agenda including working closely in partnership with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and others. Climate change and energy (CCE) work is a network wide priority, so at different times forms part of a wide range of officers' work, including Heads of Mission and staff at all levels. The time allocated varies widely from a very small part of an officer's time to full time work on CCE. FCO's total activity in this area includes staff based in London and in our overseas network.

In line with the data supplied in FOI 0353-15, we have identified activity allocated towards 'Climate Change/Low Carbon Economy/Energy Security' on our financial systems. These figures rely on individual staff member's recording of their activities, and show numbers of FCO staff Full Time Equivalent (FTE) who spend some time in this policy area. The resource is allocated as part of broader geographical activity so exact numbers change on a regular basis. Hence we are able to provide a snapshot of the number of staff at a point in time.

Unfortunately, in compiling and checking the 2016 data for consistency with the information in FOI 0353-15, we have identified an error in the earlier figures. The 2014 figures correctly identified staff working on these issues in our network of Embassies, High Commissions and other Posts overseas, in line with the request. However, the 2015 figures mistakenly included some staff working on these issues based in London in the 122.0 figure. We have therefore corrected this data in the table below and provided the comparable data for January 2016.

Full time equivalent (FTE) staff working in FCO Embassies, High Commissions and other overseas Posts on climate change and energy (CCE):

	Jan 2104	Jan 2015	Jan 2016
FTE staff working part of their time on CCE issues	91	79	77
FTE staff working 100% on CCE issues	86	79	72
TOTAL FTE staff involved in CCE work	177	158	149

Our allocation of resource is kept under regular review as staff and local priorities change so there is a quite regular flux in numbers and locations. For example, in the run up to COP21, there was an increase in Ministerial and network engagement related to the Paris negotiations, to build support for a successful agreement. Following the historic deal reached at Paris, climate diplomacy remains important to ensure implementation and to maximise UK opportunities from the global low carbon transition. However, some staff will now be working on other priorities.

Further information regarding the FCO's priorities in supporting international action on climate change and the action we are taking can be found on the Gov.uk website at [Policy - Supporting international action on climate change – GOV.UK](#).

The copies of information being supplied to you continue 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. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives 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.

You can also find out more about previous FOI replies published on our website at [Publications - Inside Government - GOV.UK](#).

Yours sincerely,

Global Economic Issues Department