



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Afghanistan Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

28 March 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0273-17

Thank you for your email of 16 March asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Would you please supply me with the number of Civilian Service Medals (Afghanistan) that have been awarded with a breakdown of the organisations of the people to which they have been awarded. The organisation is included on the application form for the award.

I am writing to confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold the number of medals issued, with a breakdown of applicants. As of 28 February 2017 the FCO has issued:

Organisation	Number Issued
FCO:	604
Other Government Departments:	628
Contractors:	1237
Total:	2469

Some information has been withheld under Section 27(1)(c) as disclosure of the information sought would be likely to prejudice the interests of the UK abroad.

Section 27(1)(c) is a qualified exemption and as such we have considered where the greater public interest lies. Disclosure could meet the public interest in transparency and accountability. However, the effective conduct of international relations depends upon maintaining trust and confidence between governments. If the UK does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be hampered, which will not be in the public interest. The disclosure of information setting out the thoughts of an official on our relationship with various states could

potentially damage the relationship between the UK and those states. The relationships are on-going and comments - even dating back some time - could be taken into account by those states. This could reduce the UK Government's ability to protect and promote UK interests which would not be in the public interest. For these reasons we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

Afghanistan Unit



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.

