



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FCO Services

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

02 January 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0934-17

Thank you for your email of 5 October 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

This is a follow-up to Freedom of Information request 0807-17.

Please could you provide me:

- a) A breakdown of the total cost of the London Car Service for each year since 2010?*
- b) How many journeys were made each year?*
- c) What service was used for ie transporting ministers, papers, civil servants?*

Following clarification the request has been further refined:

Gratefully if you could provide total number of journeys in that year and how much that cost in total. To avoid confusion, could you also include transportation of red boxes in the total number of journeys and the total cost.

Include Information to be provided for the dates mentioned in the clarification communication

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. Apologies for the delay in sending this response.

FCO Services provides the London Car Service and an External Messenger Service to the FCO and other Whitehall departments. The London Car Service is our service for transporting ministers and senior members of staff when public transport cannot be used. The External Messenger Service is our service for transporting items: ministerial documents and red boxes.

2013/14 is the earliest year for which data is available for the London Car Service. Since then: in 2013/14 the total cost was £372,227, with a total of 3840 trips made. In 2014/15 the total cost was £392,897, with 3966 trips made. For 2015/16 the total cost was £361,448, with a total of 3064 trips made. In 2016/17 the total cost was £205,118, with 2041 trips made. 2017/18 year to date, the total cost is £101,511, with a total of 764 trips made.

The External Messenger Service operates under a subscription agreement. The subscription agreement costs £148,368 per year. This has remained the same for the past 5 years (the period for which data is available). The subscription agreement covers the transportation of ministerial documents and red boxes between Whitehall departments. Where requests are made for deliveries outside of Whitehall, such as to an external address, there is an additional charge.

There is no available data for the number of journeys made which are covered by the subscription service. However, since April 2016, the earliest date from which relevant data can be supplied, there have been a total of 396 trips made which have been outside of the subscription agreement, and have incurred an additional cost.

Yours sincerely,

FCO Services



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.