



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Human Resources Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

30 January 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0004-18

Thank you for your email of 2 January 2018 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information:

Please can you list the reasons given (specific reason or by category, depending on how data is kept) for sick days at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2016 and in 2017 so far (please provide your most up-to-date documents)?

Please can you list how many sick days were taken at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the specified time periods for each of the reasons listed?

Please send confirmation of receiving this request, and respond within the guaranteed 20 working day limit.

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.

The data below shows sick absence days recorded for FCO UK Based staff from January to December 2016 and 1 January to 30 September 2017. We collate sick absence data on a quarterly basis, which is why data after September 2017 is not yet available.

Jan to Dec 2016

Absence Reason	Total sick absence days
Cancers inc. Leukaemia, Hodkins Disease	478
Dental Problems	176

Depression / Mental Illness	867
Discounted Pregnancy related illness	47
Endocrine Disorders e.g. Diabetes, Thyroid	42
Eye Disorders e.g. Conjunctivitis, Cataracts	102
Gynaecological Disorders	127
Heart Condition inc. Blood Pressure problems	48
Infectious / Viral Illness e.g. Glandular Fever, Chickenpox	382
Influenza, Colds, Throat and Ear Infections	2396
Injury both work and non work related	434
Medical Investigations	307
Menopause Related Illness	7
Migraine	242
Musculoskeletal / Back Pain	549
Neurological Conditions e.g. Epilepsy, Parkinsons Disease	64
Pregnancy Related Illness	118
Respiratory Conditions inc. Asthma	375
Skin Conditions e.g. Eczema, Psoriasis	20
Stomach Disorder	979
Stress Related	1949
Surgical Operations	1270
Tropical Diseases	99
Urinary / Kidney Disorders	155
Withheld Sickness Reason	163
Work Related Upper Limb Disorders	9
Reason not Recorded	4153
Total	15558

Jan to Sept 2017

Absence Reason	Total sick absence days
Cancers inc. Leukaemia, Hodkins Disease	39
Dental Problems	48
Depression / Mental Illness	1272
Discounted Pregnancy related illness	66
Endocrine Disorders e.g. Diabetes, Thyroid	89
Eye Disorders e.g. Conjunctivitis, Cataracts	30
Gynaecological Disorders	57
Heart Condition inc. Blood Pressure problems	171
Infectious / Viral Illness e.g. Glandular Fever, Chickenpox	236
Influenza, Colds, Throat and Ear Infections	1338
Injury both work and non work related	732
Medical Investigations	95
Menopause Related Illness	3
Migraine	181

Musculoskeletal / Back Pain	324
Neurological Conditions e.g. Epilepsy, Parkinsons Disease	285
Pregnancy Related Illness	137
Respiratory Conditions inc. Asthma	155
Skin Conditions e.g. Eczema, Psoriasis	42
Stomach Disorder	600
Stress Related	953
Surgical Operations	1096
Tropical Diseases	35
Urinary / Kidney Disorders	28
Withheld Sickness Reason	188
Work Related Upper Limb Disorders	1
Reason not Recorded	3170
Total	11371

The above data equates to 3.6 average working days lost in 2016, and 2.6 lost between 1st January to 30th September 2017. This is well below the UK national average of 4.3 days according to the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) report.

We do not hold centrally the data on our local staff working at our missions overseas.

Yours sincerely,

Human Resources Directorate



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.