



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

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

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0919-16

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

1. *How many staff have been reassigned within the department to duties which primarily or exclusively relate to Britain's intended exit from the EU? What proportion of the department's staff is this?*
2. *How many departmental staff have been seconded/reassigned to each of the following departments since June 24th 2016?:*
 - *The Department for Exiting the EU*
 - *The Department for International Trade*
3. *If staff have been reassigned/seconed to the aforementioned departments how many of them a) have been replaced and b) are due to be replaced?*
4. *How many staff are currently employed by the department (and FTE equivalent)?*
5. *How many more staff are currently being advertised for (and FTE equivalent)?*
6. *How many staff does the department believe it will require **in total** (i.e. including present staff and advertised staff) to carry out its existing duties as well as those required in the course of Britain's intended exit from the EU between now and March 2019?*

On 14 July 2016, the Prime Minister announced a number of government changes, including the creation of the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) and a Department for International Trade (DIT). These new departments have been set up with the responsibility for overseeing negotiations to leave the EU, and establishing the future relationship between the UK and the EU; and promoting British international trade and investment. The full statement can be found at the following address:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-07-18/HCWS94>

As the department with overall responsibility for foreign policy and maintaining the UK's diplomatic and bilateral relationships across the globe; the FCO is working closely with these new departments to support the Government's priorities in securing the best possible outcome for the UK from negotiations.

Since the creation of the two departments, the FCO has seconded a total of 39 positions and 30 officials to DExEU. We have not externally recruited any additional staff to replace them because the work has transferred to DExEU. To date, we have not seconded any roles to DIT.

As of 30 September 2016, the FCO has 4,389 (4,305 FTE) UK-based staff and 8,528 (8,300 FTE) local staff overseas who are employed directly by our Missions.

The Civil service wide recruitment freeze, which has been in place since 2010, limits new appointments to business critical or front line positions. As of 30 September 2016, the FCO was advertising for 20 (20 FTE) apprenticeship positions. The FCO also recruits annually via the Civil Service Fast Stream, which is exempt from the freeze. The Fast Stream opened for applications on 29 September 2016. The FCO will recruit 53 (53 FTE) members of staff through the Fast Stream.

Yours sincerely,

Europe Directorate
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