



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Knowledge Management Dept
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

29 April 2014

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0402-14

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

Please can you tell me for each of the past 5 years:

- *How many FOIs have you received?*
- *How many have you responded to within the time period?*
- *How many were responded to on the final day of the time period?*
- *How many have you deemed to be over the threshold?*
- *How many of these were put to internal review?*
- *And how many times was it found that it was indeed under the threshold at internal review?*

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.

Please find attached the information that the FCO can release to you. The table shows the information for the past 5 years. We have interpreted the time period to include where deadlines have been extended as permitted under the FOI Act and we have included the

replies within 20 working days. We have given the numbers of replies citing the cost limit, the internal reviews of those replies and the outcomes of those internal reviews.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Your third question about the number of replies sent on the last day of the time period as presently formulated is widely-framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request. This is because I would have to check the response date against the due date for each FOI request. Instead I have given you the number of replies that were answered on the 20th day.

Year	FOIs	Replies to deadlines	Replies Within 20 days	Answered on 20 th Day	Over Cost Limit	Internal Reviews of cost limit replies	Upheld or Overturned
2009	1138	1078	802	406	120	9	All upheld
2010	1185	1100	930	304	125	7	All upheld
2011	1354	1270	960	399	174	5	All upheld
2012	1319	1214	972	426	169	12	9 upheld, 2 part overturned, 1 fully overturned.
2013	1217	1051	797	326	148	4	3 upheld, 1 outstanding

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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Yours sincerely,

FOI and DPA Team
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



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