



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

South America Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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13 August 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0707-14

Thank you for your email of 20 July asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Exeter City Football Club ("The Club") are playing some games in Brazil during July 2014 as part of a 100th centenary event visit. ("The Event")

It has been suggested by the Club that the British Consulate ("BC") in Rio de Janeiro has made available "financial support" for the event. I understand that the Press Officer of the Rio Consulate has denied this indicating that, instead, the Consulate is "supporting a networking event."

Would you please confirm the facts, and without prejudice to the generality of this request deal with the following specific questions:

- 1) *Is it the general policy of BC to sponsor or offer financial support for private events?*
- 2) *What payments have been made (either directly, or by reimbursement of costs or contribution of whatsoever description), or will, or may be made, to The Club, or any person or body connected with The Club, in relation to The Event? Please state the quantum and nature of any such payments/reimbursements/contributions.*
- 3) *What is the precise nature of the support for the networking by the BC and what costs will be borne by the BC?*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

1) The British Consulate General (BCG) in Rio de Janeiro and the UK Government Network in Brazil assesses proposals for sponsorship of private events on a case-by-case basis, working with partner organisations, with the objective of supporting initiatives that promote UK Government objectives.

2) The British Consulate General in Rio did not sponsor or reimburse any costs of the visit of Exeter City Football Club. The BCG judged the centennial football match a good opportunity to conduct networking and UK promotional activities. The BCG paid a third party company to organise a networking event held around the match. This payment can be broken down as follows (figures are projections as the final invoice has not yet been received):

Receptionists – BRL 300

Photographer – BRL 300

Lunch – BRL 4,500

Branding (of the UK GREAT brand) – BRL 2,750

Tickets to the game for BCG guests – BRL 6,000

Total = BRL 13,850 (Brazilian Reais). The equivalent in GBP at today's exchange rate is approximately £3,700.

3) The British Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro provided financial support to a networking event and promotion of the UK on 20 July 2014 around the centennial celebration game between Exeter City and Fluminense Football Club. This game celebrated the anniversary of the first Brazilian national football team match, which took place on 21 July 1914 and was against Exeter City at the same Fluminense stadium. This support was in pursuit of British Government objectives to promote the UK and foster commercial and cultural partnerships between the UK and Brazil. To this end, guests came from the business, cultural and political community in Rio de Janeiro.

Yours sincerely,

South America Department



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