



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

24 January 2017

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1155-16

Thank you for your email of 14th December asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- *The total number of IT staff employed by the organisation.*
- *Please list and provide contact details for the IT senior management team including CIO, IT Director, Head of IT and Infrastructure Architects if applicable.*
- *Please confirm your current primary storage vendors and replacement/refresh dates.*
- *Please confirm your current backup/data recovery vendors and replacement/refresh dates.*
- *Please confirm your server vendor and replacement/refresh date.*
- *Please confirm data centre refresh date.*
- *Please confirm the amount of used storage and number of virtual / physical servers.*
- *Please confirm if you are utilising desktop virtualisation technologies and if so how many users do you provide services for?*
- *Please confirm which hypervisor you are currently using?*
- *Total available budget for IT infrastructure for FY16/17 and FY17/18.*

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.

- Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. Some of the information relevant to your request can be found at the following link:
<https://data.gov.uk/organogram/foreign-and-commonwealth-office/2016-03-31>
Click on *PUS > Director General Operations > Chief Information Officer*, where you will find staff numbers for the IT department.
- Colin Martin-Reynolds – Chief Information Officer
Stephen Robbins – Head of IT Delivery and Deputy CIO
Contact number – 020 7008 1500
- The primary storage vendor is HP. We are unable to provide replacement/refresh dates as there is no regular refresh plan for any hardware.
- The current back up/recovery vendor is HP. We are unable to provide replacement/refresh dates as there is no regular refresh plan for any hardware.
- The server vendors are HP and Cisco. We are unable to provide replacement/refresh dates as there is no regular refresh plan for any hardware
- The FCO's main data centre was refreshed as part of an infrastructure project in Q4 2008/Q1 2009.
- Information relating to storage and servers is withheld under Section 24 (1) – national security - and Section 31 (1) (a) – law enforcement - of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Section 24 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in the FCO protecting national security. Having reviewed the requested material, we are concerned that disclosure could undermine the confidentiality and integrity of departmental systems leading to IT systems being compromised or disrupted and consequently adversely impact on UK's security. We have therefore concluded that the exemption applies and that non-disclosure serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

The exemption in section 31 (1) (a) is designed to cover all aspects of the prevention and detection of crime. Section 31 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency and we recognise that releasing this information would provide the public with assurance that we are protecting our IT infrastructure. However, section 31 is engaged because releasing the information will prejudice the prevention of crime by facilitating the possibility of a criminal offence being carried out. Hacking into an IT system is a criminal offence. The FCO takes the protection of its IT infrastructure very seriously. We implement the mandatory requirements of the Cabinet Office Security Policy Framework and follow Her Majesty's Government's Information Assurance standards and best practice which covers all areas of security.

For the reasons set out above, we have assessed that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

- Information relating to desktop virtualisation technologies is withheld under Section 24 (1) and Section 31 (1) (a), as above.
- Information relating to hypervisors is withheld under Section 24 (1) and Section 31 (1) (a), as above.
- The total available budget for IT infrastructure for FY16/17 is approximately £116.5m. We do not hold the information for FY17/18.

Yours sincerely,

Knowledge and Technology 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.