



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Climate Change and Energy
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

8 April 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0263-15

Thank you for your email of 09 March 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

'I would like to place a Freedom of Information Request for details of the FCO's climate change budget from 2014-2015.

In addition, could you outline whether the budget for cc envoy Sir David King's office and the wider climate change network of attaches and diplomats has risen or fallen, and if so if this is part of wider increases/cuts?'

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

1. The budget for your climate change diplomacy activities for the financial year 2014/15.

In order to find out how much was budgeted for climate change activities by each diplomatic mission, we would be required to ask all FCO posts to collate this information individually. 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 request 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. You may therefore wish to refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit. You could narrow your request to a specific post to bring it within the cost threshold.

A large proportion of climate change projects are funded by the FCO's Prosperity Fund, which promotes action on global issues in the UK's national interest. These projects help us to create economic growth for the UK by increasing exports and investment, opening markets, ensuring access to resources, and promoting sustainable global growth. The following table shows how the Prosperity Fund has been allocated for climate change or sustainable energy projects in 2014/15.

Table A- Prosperity Fund Budget

| | 2014/15 |
|---|--------------------|
| Sustainability-Climate Change | £7,667,258 |
| Sustainability-Energy/Resource Security | £3,128,382 |
| TOTAL Sustainability Projects | £10,795,641 |

Details of how much spend was used on Climate Change activities will be available in our 2014/15 accounts.

2. Whether the budget for cc envoy Sir David King's office and the wider climate change network of attaches and diplomats has risen or fallen, and if so if this is part of wider increases/cuts

The SRCC plays a central part in the FCO's climate change objectives, working to influence political and economic thinking within overseas governments to secure greater cooperation and ambition in international climate change negotiations.

The budget for SRCC's Office is set annually based on his priorities for the year ahead. For the last two years this has been:

Table B- SRCC Office's Budget

| 2013/14 | 2014/15 | Difference |
|----------|---------|------------|
| £103,000 | £92,000 | -10.6% |

Details of how much of this budget was used will be available in our 2014/15 accounts.

The FCO's global network, including the Climate Change and Energy attachés, is made up of staff from individual embassies and high commissions around the world and paid for from their locally held budgets. These embassies have devolved authority to assign and spend their budgets according to individual priorities, so we do not hold those figures centrally.

In order to find out how much was budgeted for Climate Change and Energy attachés by each diplomatic mission, we would be required to ask all FCO posts to collate this information individually. Therefore, section 12 of the FOIA would once again apply. You could again narrow your request to a specific post to bring it within the cost threshold.

Further information regarding the FCO's priorities in supporting international action on climate change and the action we are taking can be found on the Gov.uk website at [Policy - Supporting international action on climate change – GOV.UK](#).

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Yours sincerely,

Open Government Liaison Officer
Climate Change and Energy



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