



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Protocol
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Lancaster House
Stable Yard
London SW1A 1BB

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

16 March 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0149-16

Thank you for your email of 5 February 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“Please provide a breakdown of the costs of UK HMG hosting the recent Conference on Syria - 03.02.2015 - 05.02.2016:

Breakdown to include:

Daily and total Policing Cost (Close Protection; Roads policing; General Policing; MPS Firearms Cover; Escorts; Air Support; Mutual Aid (Search Teams, including LSAs; POLSAs; General Purpose and Specialist Dogs).

Cost of implementing TROs

Venue Costs, including venue hire; catering; security (G4S Contract); utilities; signage; barriers; traffic diversions; compensation to businesses forced to close.”

The Supporting Syria and the Region Conference was led by a cross-government team based in the Cabinet Office. The Conference venues, catering, logistics and internal security at the venues were funded by the Department for International Development. We do not hold information regarding Policing costs. In line with the approach used for other major conferences (e.g. the G8 summit, NATO) costs will not be made public until the full expenditure is known. All costs associated with hosting the conference will be met from within existing public spending constraints. Conference organisers have worked to keep the costs down and ensure all contracts were scrutinised for value for money.

However, the information you have requested is currently exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act as this information is intended for future publication. Section 22 provides that:

1. Information is exempt information if -
 - (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),
 - (b) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

The exemption under Sections 22 of the Freedom of Information Act recognises that it must be reasonable in all the circumstances to withhold the information until the date of publication. Given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing the information, which includes collation from a number of different sources, we consider that our publication timetable is reasonable.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

Yours sincerely,

Protocol 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.