



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Human Resources Directorate  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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15 September 2016

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0805-16**

Thank you for your email of 25 August asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked for:

*Were the Department's former Special Advisers, who had been reappointed after the 2015 General Election and left Government in or after July this year, awarded six months severance pay as part of their severance package?*

*What were the terms of the severance package for Special Advisers appointed after the 2015 General Election?*

*Did these terms for such individuals change? If so, how?*

*What was the proposed total cost of the severance package for Special Advisers before the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron?*

*What was the proposed total cost of the severance package for Special Advisers after the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron?*

*Has the department agreed to offer Special Advisers a severance package which has a value over and above their contractual entitlement? If so, what are the respective financial totals?*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds the information you require.

*The terms under which special advisers may recover severance payments are set out in the Model Contract for special advisers.*

*In July this year the then Prime Minister decided that certain special advisers should be awarded a higher amount of severance pay than their contracts provided for.*

*The Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office asked the then Prime Minister for a formal Ministerial Direction to make the payments, which was forthcoming. The correspondence between the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary and the Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-advisers-severance-pay>. The decision was taken before Mr Cameron left the office of Prime Minister.*

The process for Ministerial Directions is set out in HM Treasury's policy guidance entitled "Managing Public Money" [www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-public-money](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-public-money).

Details of government special advisers, including costs, are published annually. The last list was published in December 2015 and can be assessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-adviser-data-releases-numbers-and-costs-december-2015>

The updated list will include the costs of severance. As this information will be published in the future, provision of this information at the current time is exempt under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

Human Resources Directorate



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