



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

13 June 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI-0482-17, FOI-0483-17

Thank you for your emails of 15 May 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to provide you with the following information:

1) The total number of UK-based FCO staff working a) full time and b) part time on climate change in each of the past seven years. Please provide the most up-to date figures.

2 The total number of full time equivalent staff working in FCO Embassies, High Commissions and other overseas Posts on climate change and energy (CCE) issues in January 2017.

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

To provide context for your request, the FCO works actively across the international climate and energy agenda in partnership with the work of the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and other government departments.

Climate Change and Energy (CCE) work is a network-wide priority, so forms part of a wide range of officers' work, including Heads of Mission and staff at all levels. The time allocated varies widely from a very small part of an officer's time to full time work on CCE.

The FCO has identified activity allocated towards 'Economic Diplomacy - Climate Change, Energy' on our systems, which has replaced the previous 'climate change/low carbon economy/energy security' designator. Therefore, the FCO does not record activity data with granularity beyond the CCE category, such as 'climate change/low carbon economy/energy security.' These figures rely on individual staff members' recording of their activities, and show numbers of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) FCO staff who spend time in this policy area as well as the headcount total number of staff who work either full-time or part-time on CCE issues. It does not correspond to specific job slots. The resource is allocated as part of broader geographical activity, staffing levels are constantly under review and responsibilities vary in response to changing situations and priorities throughout the year.

As per your first question, the FCO has interpreted UK-based staff as staff stationed overseas and in London, but does not include locally engaged members of staff. It therefore significantly under-represents the full scale of activity undertaken. If you are interested in data that include locally engaged staff, please refer to FOI-0639-16. The table below shows

the total number of UK-based FCO staff working a) full time and b) part time on CCE issues in each of the past seven years.

Total Number of UK-Based Staff working on CCE Issues

| | Staff working 100% on CCE issues | Staff working part of their time on CCE issues | TOTAL staff involved in CCE work |
|----------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Mar 2011 | 54 | 500 | 554 |
| Mar 2012 | 48 | 425 | 473 |
| Mar 2013 | 48 | 395 | 443 |
| Mar 2014 | 50 | 344 | 394 |
| Mar 2015 | 44 | 304 | 348 |
| Mar 2016 | 36 | 260 | 296 |
| Jan 2017 | 22 | 199 | 221 |

We have interpreted your second request as including UK-based staff stationed overseas in FCO Embassies, High Commissions and other overseas posts as well as locally engaged staff. This does not include UK-based staff in London.

The table below contains figures for January 2017, and provides a snapshot of staff involvement in CCE issues at that time.

FTE staff working on CCE issues

| | FTE staff working 100% of their time on CCE issues | FTE staff working part of their time on CCE issues | TOTAL FTE staff involved in CCE work |
|----------|--|--|---|
| Jan 2017 | 58 | 54 | 112 |