



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

**Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & the Maldives
Team**

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14 July 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0382-15

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- *Please state the total number of UK police officers deployed to Sri Lanka (current or returned) since 1st January 2007. Please break this down by serving and retired officers.*
- *Please provide a summary the nature of the UK police operation in Sri Lanka.*
- *Please provide the dates of the UK police operation in Sri Lanka (start and end/anticipated end).*
- *Please provide the total cost to the FCO of the UK police operation in Sri Lanka to date.*

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.

Please note that we only keep project records for six years, so we do not hold the information requested for the period 2007-2009. However, we are aware of one visit to Sri Lanka in the financial year 2007-08. This involved two serving UK police officers for 18 days at an approximate cost of £44,000.

From 2009-2015, our records show that, a total of nine UK officers have deployed (four serving officers and five retired officers) to Sri Lanka. These deployments were funded through the tri-departmental Conflict Pool fund.

The Police service carry out training roles and provide support to other countries on policing issues.

Policing projects have taken place during the dates below. Visits by UK police officers were intermittent and of varying duration during these dates, although we are not aware of any UK police officers being deployed to Sri Lanka during FY 2010-11.

15 April 2014 to 31 March 2015
1 May 2013 to 31 March 2014
1 November 2012 to 31 March 2013
25 May 2011 to 31 March 2012
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

The total UK government funding for policing projects in Sri Lanka, which includes UK police deployment costs, is detailed below. We do not hold specific figures for UK police deployment costs.

FY 14/15	£282,057
FY 13/14	£204,687
FY 12/13	£159,450
FY 11/12	£43,360
FY 10/11	£unable to ascertain
FY 09/10	£unable to ascertain

The FCO can neither confirm nor deny whether the information disclosed represents all the information held that would meet the terms of your request, as the duty to comply with section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of sections 23(5) and 24(2).

To the extent that section 24(2) applies, the FCO has determined that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether or not the information is held, and to give a statement of the reasons why the exemption applies would itself involve the disclosure of exempt information. Therefore under section 17(4) of the Act the FCO is not obliged to give such a statement.

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Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer, Sri Lanka and the Maldives
South Asia Department



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