



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0481-17**

Thank you for your email of 15 May 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*"I would like to make a Freedom of Information Act request please. It concerns Palmerston, the chief mouser at the FCO.*

- 1) *How much money was spent on food for Palmerston last year? (Tax year or calendar year is fine)*
- 2) *How much money was spent on other care for Palmerston last year? This includes things like litter trays, bedding. (Again, tax year or calendar year is fine).*
- 3) *How much money was spent on toys for Palmerston last year? (Again, tax year or calendar year is fine).*
- 4) *How much money was spent on vet bills for Palmerston last year? (Tax year/calendar year)*
- 5) *How many people are responsible for Palmerston's care? (Feeding, water, cleaning etc). What is their job title? Are they employed specifically for the cat?*
- 6) *What is Palmerston given to eat? What brand of food is fed to Palmerston?*
- 7) *Do you have data on how many mice Palmerston caught last year? (Tax year/calendar year)."*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that in relation to questions 1-4, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold information relevant to your request. All costs for Palmerston's care are being funded voluntarily by staff. The FCO does not keep a record of this.

In relation to questions 5-7, the FCO does hold information relevant to your request.

Palmerston's care is carried out by a number of volunteers from across the FCO. No one member of staff is responsible for Palmerston's care. The Permanent Under-Secretary's (PUS) office oversee Palmerston's upkeep but this is done on a voluntary basis. Much of

Palmerston's food is donated to him, so he is fed a variety of brands. He is fed a mixture of dry and wet food, usually 'Whiskas'. The FCO does not keep an accurate figure for the amount of mice caught by Palmerston. The PUS's office do receive reported sightings of Palmerston catching mice; so far (since Palmerston's arrival in April 2016) this figure is at 27. This figure is likely to be much higher as these are only reported sightings.

Office of the Permanent Under-Secretary



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