

3 July 2012

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0643-12

Thank you for your letter received by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on 7th June requesting the following information:

“Accordingly I am writing to ask you let me have, in respect of any staff supplied to your department without charge by Deloitte KPMG, Ernst & Young, PWC or any other outside firm, a note in each case of their function, grade, and level of security clearance, currently, and in respect of 2011 and 2010.”

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

The FCO does not hold the requested information as it has not employed any staff from Deloitte, KPMG, Ernst & Young, PWC or any other outside firm who have supplied services without charge to us in 2010 or 2011.

Some IT projects within the FCO require the use of consultancy firms. When we engage with such companies, it is usually via service-based contracts, staff provided under a service contract to provide support to the FCO. Any staff supplied via this type of contract is required to be cleared to Security Check (SC) level as a minimum.

The FCO follows the government-wide Consultancy Value programme whereby all requests for consultancy services are subject to an approved business case. Consultancy requirements expected to cost in excess of £20k must be approved by the individual department's nominated Board Member. In addition to this, requirements likely to exceed £100k in value, or last for longer than 9 months also require Cabinet Office approval.