



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Human Resources Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

12 February 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1059-13

Thank you for your email of 11 November asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please could you provide the number of care experienced young people who have been provided with i) an apprenticeship ii) a work experience placement within your department between April 2012 - now

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 not hold any information relevant to your request.

The FCO offers a range of internship and work experience schemes which are designed to offer participants an insight into working at the FCO and valuable work experience for future job applications, but is not currently offering formal apprenticeship schemes.

Between April 2012 and July 2013 we recruited graduate and undergraduate interns through our 'Future Talent Scheme', the Fast Stream Summer Diversity Internship Program, and the Government Economics Service and through the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills hosted 'Graduate Talent Pool'. At no stage during the recruitment process, or on appointment, do we or the relevant hiring government Department ask applicants if they have a care experience background and it is not logged if the person has specifically mentioned it.

The FCO also offers a 2-week summer work experience placement to college-age (16-18) students from low socio-economic backgrounds through the Social Mobility Foundation (SMF) Whitehall Internship Programme. This is managed centrally by the Department for Work and Pensions. The SMF recruitment team responds to individual queries from students, parents and teachers and states in promotional materials that all applications are assessed on an individual basis. If a student has experienced any extenuating circumstances (including being in care or being a young carer) then the SMF will assess their application in light of their situation. Not every student declares any such information; it is not a required part of the application process, and so information held by the SMF is not

comprehensive. We have checked with the SMF and they have confirmed that they are not aware of any students who were placed in the FCO in either 2012 or 2013 who had a care experience background.

Further information about the internship and work experience schemes we participated in during 2013 is available on our website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office/about/recruitment#work-experience>

In addition to this, FCO Services (FCOS), a Trading Fund of the FCO, continues to recruit Technical Engineering apprentices annually to its successful Engineering Apprentice programme which is run in partnership with Milton Keynes College. In 2012, FCOS also ran an IT trainee scheme for the first time. At no stage during either the recruitment process, or on appointment, do they ask applicants if they have a care experience background.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

I hope you are satisfied with this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Knowledge Management Officer
Human Resources Directorate



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.