



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Human Resources Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

31 July 2014

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0611-14**

Thank you for your emails of 18 and 19 June asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I am looking for information how each Directorate is organized. How many departments it has, how many units, how many desk officers etc*

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.

The details of each directorate and staff numbers are publicly available by following the link to <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/staff-organograms-and-pay-foreign-and-commonwealth-office>. Each Directorate General (DG) has the flexibility to deploy staff within its own DG to meet its requirements as long as it keeps within its budget and headcount allocation.

To break this down further would entail contacting every department within the FCO for details on their structure. This would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Your request as presently formulated is widely-framed and I

estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request.

We had considered our obligation under Section 16 of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on how to narrow the scope of your request to bring it within the appropriate limit. However, given the range of geographical and political departments within the FCO, we are unable to provide you with any advice on how to narrow your request on this occasion.

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.

Yours sincerely,

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.