



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

06 March 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0055-14

Thank you for your email of 2 January 2014 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. I am sorry for the delay in responding. You asked:

For information about the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's use of interns, work experience placements and related temporary entry-level positions over the past 5 years in British Embassies. Specifically, I would like to know:

Whether certain embassies have made use of interns/work experience placements, and how many in total they have had. As you have previously told me that the scope of the request is too broad when asking for every British diplomatic mission overseas, I'd like to instead ask specifically only for Italy, China, Turkey, India, South Africa, Brazil and the permanent representations in Brussels.

I'd then like a breakdown of data for each embassy, showing for each intern: how long they worked for, in hours per week and dates of employment; their job title, if applicable; and what their rate of pay was (be it per hour, per week, some other metric, expenses only, or nothing at all).

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.

Unfortunately, the data you originally requested is not held centrally by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. You agreed to narrow down your enquiry to the relevant Embassies and High Commissions in the countries concerned and the two permanent representations in Brussels in order to keep your enquiry within FOI cost limits.

We asked the seven Embassies and High Commissions and the two permanent representations in Brussels to search their records for the information you requested and the data they provided is set out in the attached spreadsheet.

As I explained in my letter of 13 December (FOI 1079-13), where our Embassies, High Commissions and permanent representations run work experience and internship schemes these placements are run in accordance with local, rather than UK, law. Local labour law will dictate the level of remuneration offered. In some countries, local labour law may prevent any remuneration being paid to an intern. In such cases, post will pay reasonable expenses if this is compatible with local labour law.

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,

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.