



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Facilities Management Client Unit
Estates and Security Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Email:

By Email:

30 June 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0415-14

Thank you for your email of 8 April asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). You asked;

I would like to apply under foI laws for the costs to taxpayers of running Carlton Gardens in each of the last four financial years ie 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 broken down as far as possible within the department's restrictions on FOI costs.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information relevant to your request. Please see the table below for the running costs for Carlton Gardens, exclusive of VAT, over the last four financial years:

	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2010/11</u>	<u>2011/12</u>	<u>2012/13</u>
Rent, rates and local property taxes	163,238	164,000	162,000	162,000
Facilities Management, maintenance, repairs and improvements	250,884	325,606	311,276	226,698
Internal Moves	11,538	11,314	10,022	7,981
Security	27,568	82,631	152,757	155,290
Cleaning	40,965	41,068	31,392	45,189
Waste Disposal	3,592	6,846	7,390	5,821
Grounds maintenance	3,633	5,194	1,018	4,060
Catering	802	1,432	1,851	1,901

Post room/internal distribution	14,804	12,403	11,514	13,792
Water, sewage and energy	89,413	79,463	53,457	74,653
Total	£ 606,435	£729,956	£742,677	£ 697,385

Council Tax and utility costs for the Foreign Secretary's Official residency within the building at Carlton Gardens are not included in the above figures as these have been met personally by the Foreign Secretary since his occupancy of the residency on 28 June 2010.

Under the terms of the lease for 1 Carlton Gardens the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is obliged to "as often as necessary, well and substantially to repair, renew, uphold, clean and keep in repair the demised premises". The maintenance of the property is undertaken in accordance with the quadrennial inspections of listed buildings, statutory inspections for listed purposes carried out every four years. We always seek value for money in carrying out such work while also ensuring the preservation of what is a Grade 1 listed building.

The FCO undertakes a vast range of diplomatic activities through venues in the UK, including Carlton Gardens, and through our network of 260 overseas posts, with the aim of establishing and strengthening diplomatic contacts and supporting the Government's global agenda for growth. These include meetings and events hosted for political and business delegations aimed at increasing inward investment and supporting British businesses looking to expand into overseas markets.

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.

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Yours sincerely,



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