



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Engagement & Communication  
Department**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

09 October 2013

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0828-13**

Thank you for your email of 9<sup>th</sup> September asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*How much money have you spent on ministerial television training since May 2010?*

*Who received this training?*

*What kind of training did they receive?*

*Who conducted the training?*

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 Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Ministers are the most important channel that we have to explain foreign policy to the taxpayers who fund our work. Being able to do this in the media is vital to ensuring that the public in the UK and overseas understand our policies and that we are open and transparent.

Since 2010 we have spent a total of £5400 on training our Ministers to work with the media.

Since 2010 we have arranged professional training for Mr Mark Simmonds MP, Mr Henry Bellingham MP and Mr Alistair Burt MP.

All three ministers received training on how to give effective TV and radio interviews in a variety of contexts.

The training was conducted by Robert Taylor Communications LTD and Group K Broadcasting.

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. However, if you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the FOI and DPA Team, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room K4.10-13, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: [foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk](mailto:foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk). You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Communication Excellence & Training Team  
Engagement & Communication Department



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.