



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Communications & Engagement
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

08 October 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0866-14

Thank you for your email of 6 September asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

How many people are employed in the communications department of your department? How many of these employees are considered press officers?

Please provide any guidance the department has for press officers and communications staff dealing with journalists.

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 information you have requested is exempt under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and the Cabinet Office is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

The FCO regularly publishes staff and salary data which includes the information you have requested about the communications staff. This can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-office-staff-and-salary-data>

Guidance for Press Officers is contained in the Government Communication Service Handbook which is accessible at:

<https://gcn.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/GCS-Handbook-Update-Aug14.pdf>

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

Communications 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.