



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Estates and Security Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

28 October 2014

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

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0936-14**

Thank you for your email of 3 October asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I would like to make the following request under the Freedom of Information Act.*

- 1) Could you please list the location of all FCO properties owned in foreign countries which the FCO has disposed of in the last five years (2009-2014)?*
- 2) Could you please state the highest value of the property disposed of for each year?*
- 3) Could you please list the countries where the FCO shares or plans to share (a) consular services (b) office/embassy space (co-locate) with another country and state the name of that country it shares with?*
- 4) For each case in (3) (i) and (ii) could you please state when that sharing arrangement began/will begin?*

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. I am pleased to release the information that we are able to disclose.

- 1) Could you please list the location of all FCO properties owned in foreign countries which the FCO has disposed of in the last five years (2009-2014)?*
- 2) Could you please state the highest value of the property disposed of for each year?*

Please see the tables below which provide details of FCO properties disposed of in the last five years, as requested. I have also shown the value of the 'highest value property disposed of for each year' as reported in our FCO Annual Report and Accounts.

The FCO represents the British public in over 260 locations. We continually keep the size of our estate under review to ensure the properties we use provide value for money for the taxpayer and enable us to represent the UK effectively around the world.

<b>2009/2010</b>		
<b>Property Location</b>	<b>Type of Property</b>	<b>Sales Proceeds as reported in FCO Annual Report and Accounts</b>
Lima	Residential	
Victoria	Residential	
Abidjan	Residential	
Zanzibar	Non-Residential	
Lilongwe	Residential	
Gaborone	Residential	
Kingstown	Non-Residential/Office	
Berne	Residential	
Vientiane, Laos	Residential & Non-Residential	
Ottawa	Residential	
Almaty	Non-Residential	
Dar Es Salaam	Residential	
Dar Es Salaam	Residential	
Abidjan	Non-Residential/Office	
Abidjan	Non-Residential/Office	
St John's	Residence	
Paris	Residential	
Paris	Residential	
Paris	Residential	
Colombo	Residential	£2,003,170

<b>2010/2011</b>		
<b>Property Location</b>	<b>Type of Property</b>	<b>Sales Proceeds as reported in FCO Annual Report and Accounts</b>
Canberra	Residential	
Canberra	Residential	
Canberra	Residential	
Canberra	Residential	
Brussels	Residential	
Ottawa	Residential	
Ottawa	Residential	
Copenhagen	Residential	
Nairobi	Residential	
Kuala Lumpur	Residential	£5,122,376
The Hague	Residential	
The Hague	Residential	
Ibadan	Residential	
Stockholm	Residential	
Dar Es Salaam	Residential	
Dar Es Salaam	Residential	
Dar Es Salaam	Residential	
Dar Es Salaam	Residential	
Dar Es Salaam	Residential	
Kampala	Residential	

Washington	Residential	
Washington	Residential	
Washington	Residential	
Washington	Residential	
Washington	Residential	

<b>2011/2012</b>		
<b>Property Location</b>	<b>Type of Property</b>	<b>Sales Proceeds as reported in FCO Annual Report and Accounts</b>
Seoul	Residential	
Kampala	Residential	
Kampala	Residential	
Lusaka	Residential	
Washington	Residential	
Oporto	Residential & Non-Residential	
Seoul	Residential	
Lilongwe (Inc Blantyre)	Residential	
Belmopan	Residential	
Seoul	Residential	
Warsaw	Residential	
Mumbai	Residential	
Warsaw	Residential	
Washington	Residential	
Dublin	Residential	
Kampala	Residential	
Vienna	Residential	£6,281,580
Panama City	Residential	

<b>2012/2013</b>		
<b>Property Location</b>	<b>Type of Property</b>	<b>Sales Proceeds as reported in FCO Annual Report and Accounts</b>
Gaborone	Residential	
Copenhagen	Residential	
Berlin	Residential	
Lima	Non-Residential	
Pretoria	Residential	
Pretoria	Residential	
Pretoria	Residential	
Pretoria	Residential	
Pretoria	Residential	
Pretoria	Residential	
Pretoria	Residential	
Pretoria	Residential	
Pretoria	Residential	
UKMis New York	Residential	
Brussels	Residential	
Paris	Residential	
Kuala Lumpur	Residential & Non-	£61,934,406

	Residential (BHC Compound)	
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<b>2013/2014</b>		
<b>Property Location</b>	<b>Type of Property</b>	<b>Sales Proceeds as reported in FCO Annual Report and Accounts</b>
Buenos Aires	Residential	
Melbourne	Residential	£6,559,929
Brussels Ukdcl	Residential	
Toronto	Residential	
Quito	Residential	
Stanley	Residential	
Guatemala City	Non-Residential	
Georgetown	Residential	
Jakarta	Residential	
Port Louis	Residential	
Port Louis	Residential	
Port Louis	Residential	
Maputo	Residential	
Plymouth	Residential	
Lagos (Inc Cotonou)	Residential	
Lagos (Inc Cotonou)	Residential	
Windhoek	Residential	
Warsaw	Residential	
Lisbon	Residential	
Colombo	Non-Residential	
Houston	Residential	

3) Could you please list the countries where the FCO shares or plans to share (a) consular services (b) office/embassy space (co-locate) with another country and state the name of that country it shares with?

4) For each case in (3) (i) and (ii) could you please state when that sharing arrangement began/will begin?

#### Consular Services

There are general arrangements in place for unrepresented EU and Commonwealth nationals which the UK both contributes to and benefits from. We have a separate arrangement whereby New Zealand will provide assistance to British Nationals in French Polynesia and other parts of the Pacific where we are not represented. We have agreements with both the United States of America and Ireland to co-operate in crisis situations. We also have an agreement with Sweden to provide consular services to British nationals in Iran. We have an agreement with Canada to make the most of our respective diplomatic resources by exploring further co-location, as well as collaboration on consular services. See link below for details.

<http://treaties.fco.gov.uk/treaties/treaty.htm>

#### Co-Location

Below is a list of the places where the FCO is currently co-located, where there is an arrangement directly between us and our co-location partner. This list does not include those places where we merely share accommodation through a common landlord.

Sharing offices means we can reduce costs to the taxpayer and also work more closely with international partners on matters which are of benefit to the UK.

LOCATION	CO-LOCATION PARTNER	PLATFORM	DATES OF CO-LOCATION
AFGHANISTAN, Kabul	New Zealand	UK Platform	Since 2010
ARMENIA, Yerevan	Sweden	UK Platform	since January 2014
BARBADOS, Bridgetown	New Zealand	UK Platform	since March 2014
BOTSWANA, Gaborone	Germany	UK Platform	since September 2014
FINLAND, Helsinki	Norway	UK Platform	since November 2013
HAITI, Port-au-Prince	Canada	Canada Platform	since June 2013
IRAQ, Baghdad	Canada	UK Platform	since December 2004
IRAQ, Baghdad	EEAS	UK Platform	since September 2006
MAURITANIA, Nouakchott	EEAS	EEAS Platform	since February 2010
MEXICO, Monterrey	Canada	Canada Platform	since September 2014
MOLDOVA, Chisinau	The Netherlands	UK Platform	since May 2004
NIGER, Niamey	France	French Platform	since 2004
NORTH KOREA, Pyongyang	Germany	German Platform	since June 2001
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, Port of Spain	Germany	UK Platform	since November 2012

Some of the information you requested is exempt from release under the following exemptions of the FOIA:

**Section 27 (1) (c) – International Relations**

*Information relating to potential co-locations has been withheld as it is exempt under section 27(1)(c). Section 27(1)(c) states that:*

- (1) *Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice –*  
(c) *the interests of the United Kingdom abroad,*

In applying section 27(1)(c) we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing it. Factors in favour of disclosure include the public interest in transparency and, accountability as well as interest in wider international relations. Factors against disclosure include the strong public interest in ensuring that the FCO are able to conduct the UK's international relations effectively and protect UK interests abroad. The effective conduct of the UK's international relations depends upon maintaining the trust and confidence of other governments. To do this there must be good working relationships with other governments based on confidence and trust. This relationship of trust allows for the free and frank exchange of information, both between governments and also between politicians on the understanding that it will be treated in confidence. If the UK does not maintain this trust and confidence, our ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations, will be hampered. Other governments may be more reluctant to share information with the UK government in future, and may be less likely to respect the confidentiality of information supplied by the UK government to them, to the detriment of UK interests.

For these reasons, we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

*Information relating to potential co-locations has also been withheld as it is exempt under:*

*Section 35(1)(a) – formulation of government policy,*

Section 35(1)(a) of the FOIA relates to the formulation or development of government policy. This exemption requires the application of a public interest test. It is recognised that there is a public interest in the greater transparency in the decision making process to ensure accountability within public authorities. However, officials need to be able to conduct rigorous and candid risk assessments of their policies and programmes including considerations of the pros and cons without there being premature disclosure which might close off better options and inhibit the free and frank discussion of all policy options. It is our view that disclosure of information referring to sharing of consular services and co-locating would mean that we would risk undermining future decision making and discussion on this subjects in future. For these reasons we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the information.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, 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,

Estates and Security Department



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