



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Arab Partnership Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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07 March 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF:

Thank you for your email of 2 February asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

1. *The number of NGO's funded or partially funded by Foreign & Commonwealth Office in Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian territories and pro Palestinian activities in other Middle East Countries*
2. *The current annual budgeted funding cost on an individual basis of each of the NGO's in Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian territories and pro Palestinian activities in other Middle East Countries funded or partially funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office*
3. *The annual funding cost on an individual basis of each of the NGO's in the Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian territories and pro Palestinian activities in other Middle East Countries funded or partially funded by Foreign & Commonwealth Office for the last three financial years from 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13*
4. *The proportion of the current budget of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office used for funding or partially funding NGO's*
5. *The proportion of the current budget of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office used for aid or partial aid on a country by country basis over and above that provided by the Department of International Development.*

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 some information relevant to your request.

The Conflict Pool in the FCO holds information in relation to parts of questions 1-3. Please see below. This is information held by the Conflict Pool and it relates to NGOs that the Conflict Pool has funded from 2010-2013.

Attached you will find a list of NGOs in Israel/OPTs and Jordan that the Conflict Pool has funded from 2010-2013 and their associated project funds received from the Conflict Pool.

The Conflict Pool is a tri-departmental pot of funds from the FCO, MOD and DFID.

The Conflict Pool does not hold information on other activities by other NGOs in other Middle Eastern countries.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Parts of your request as presently formulated are widely-framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request.

You may therefore wish to refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit e.g. in questions 1-3 by asking about named NGOs and particular activities in specific Middle Eastern countries within timeframes. And by limiting questions 4 and 5 to particular countries and specific budgets within particular timeframes.

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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