



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

**Conference and Events Team
Protocol Directorate**
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

07 July 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0580-14

Thank you for your email of 9 June asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 in regards to the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in February 2014. You asked:

- *What was the total cost of the event, as detailed above?*
- *Please provide a breakdown of the total cost of the conference and any additional cost that would have been as a result of this conference – for example post-conference event(s) (drinks).*

We can confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) held the budget for the conference, which was jointly organised by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Home Office (HO) and Department for International Development (DfID).

In advance of the conference a maximum budget was of £555,772 was agreed and cleared through the Cabinet Office Spending Exemption Committee and approved by the Cabinet Secretary, The Rt. Hon Francis Maude MP. In the end the conference came in under budget at £293,883.46 excluding VAT. There were no post-conference drinks or similar costs.

The final costs for the conference are broken down as follows:

		Cost (ex VAT)
Natural History Museum Reception	Reception for delegates and representatives of civil society on the eve of the conference	£37,684.25
Missions Briefing	Briefing on conference to all London Missions	£795.95
Airport VIP Suites	Use of the VIP Suites at the	£2,900.00

	airports for their arrivals and departures for the Heads of State attending	
Pre Conference	Senior Official Pre Conference at Lancaster House	£11,479.00
Lancaster House	Costs of the Conference at Lancaster House including Press Conference and the production of it	£241,024.26

Total cost excluding VAT £293,883.46

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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