



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Finance Directorate
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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1034-13

Thank you for your request of 1 November asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I should be grateful if you could supply details of the budgets for the overall costs of running the FCO operations in each of the G8 countries (except home country operations in the UK) in the last FCO financial year and for each of the last five financial years.

As I don't understand how FCO breaks its budget down I offer you some flexibility in how you reply to this request in order to help you comply without hitting a cost limit.

I suspect that the Ambassador in each country will have a total budget for in country operations - it is that budget I am most interested in, comparable year on year. However, if FCO does not budget in that way then feel free to suggest/offer a common sense alternative capturing the jist of my request with an explanatory text. If you do not hold data for each of the last five FCO financial years then please supply data for the period you do hold, explaining why you do not have these records.

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.

With regards to your recent request for details of 'cost of running the FCO operations in each of the G8 countries', please find below a table outlining the FCO's total departmental expenditure for G8 countries in the last three financial years. It has not been possible to provide data pre-dating financial year 2010 - 11. This is due to a change in the FCO's costing methodology which was enacted prior to Spending Review 2010. The methodology was revised both to support our spending review 2010 negotiations, and help track expenditure against our settlement. Figures for 2008-9 and 2009-10 are not held in a format consistent with the data provided, and as a result could only be supplied in this context at disproportionate cost.

The figures provided include both staff costs and direct costs. Staff costs include the following account lines: wages and salaries, pensions and other staff costs for both UK and Locally Employed staff. Direct costs include numerous different account lines such as: estate expenditure; security; vehicle costs; travel, subsistence and allowances; and depreciation. The figures provided also include staff and direct costs for management and support activity.

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Cost of FCO Posts in G8 Countries			
Canada	£7.9m	£10.6m	£9.2m
United States	£38.2m	£49.7m	£42.5m
Japan	£14.6m	£13.4m	£19.7m
France	£17.1m	£17.3m	£17.7m
Germany	£18.4m	£18.9m	£20.8m
Italy	£9.7m	£10.6m	£8.9m
Russia	£13.7m	£13.2m	£14.7m
	£119.5m	£133.7m	£133.5m

We hope you will find this information useful.

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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