



Foreign &
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Office

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0456-15

Thank you for your email of 5 May 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- *Could you please tell me how many civil servants in the department have gone on secondment to the private sector in every one of the five financial years since 2010/11? Of this number could you please tell how many have returned to the civil service following their secondment?*

- *Could you please also provide me with the information that shows how many secondees have joined the department from the private sector in every one of the five financial years since 2010/11? And of this number, could you please tell me how many have returned to the civil service following their secondment?*

- *Could you please also tell me the number of civil servants working in the department who have been employed for the following time periods, including a breakdown of their job grade?*
 - o *< 6 months*
 - o *>6 months and < 1 year*
 - o *>1 year and <2 years*
 - o *>2 years and <3 years*
 - o *>3 years and <4 years*
 - o *>4 years and <5 years*
 - o *>5 years <10 years*
 - o *>10 years*

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.

Secondments are an opportunity for the FCO and external organisations to share best practice and learn from each other. The FCO supports secondments to external organisations if they have a clear objective to build up the skills and experience our staff need to provide the best service to British nationals and businesses. We also support inward secondments that bring in skills which are not readily available elsewhere in the Civil Service and help us to ensure the work we do represents good value for the taxpayer. Both of these arrangements bring great benefit to our staff in promoting British interests overseas.

Please see below our responses to your questions:

Q1 - Could you please tell me how many civil servants in the department have gone on secondment to the private sector in every one of the five financial years since 2010/11? Of this number could you please tell how many have returned to the civil service following their secondment?

According to the records available to us, the numbers are as follows:

2010-11 - 6 officers seconded. 4 have returned, 1 left the FCO and 1 is still out on loan

2011-12 - 6 officers seconded. 3 have returned 2 left the FCO and 1 is on Special Unpaid Leave

2012-13 - 9 officers seconded. 6 have returned, 1 is on Special Unpaid Leave and 2 are still out on loan

2013-14 - 6 officers seconded. 1 has returned, 1 left the FCO and 4 are still out on loan

2014-15 - 6 officers seconded. 2 have returned, and 4 are still out on loan

Q2- Could you please also provide me with the information that shows how many secondees have joined the department from the private sector in every one of the five financial years since 2010/11? And of this number, could you please tell me how many have returned to the civil service following their secondment?

According to the records available to us, the numbers are as follows:

2010-11 – no information found

2011-12 – 2 secondees appointed, both have returned to their employer

2012-13 - 1 secondee appointed, and is still in the FCO

2013-14 – no information found

2014-15 – 2 secondees appointed, both are still on loan to the FCO

Q3 - Could you please also tell me the number of civil servants working in the department who have been employed for the following time periods, including a breakdown of their job grade?

< 6 months

>6 months and < 1 year

>1 year and <2 years

>2 years and <3 years

>3 years and <4 years

>4 years and <5 years

>5 years <10 years

>10 years

The table below shows the number of FCO staff for each time period, by grade as at 31st March 2015.

Grade	< 6 months	>6 months and < 1 year	>1 year and <2 years	>2 years and <3 years	>3 years and <4 years	>4 years and <5 years	>5 years <10 years	>10 years	Total
A1		2	3	2	1		4	7	19
A2	3	8	31	29	6	22	155	301	555
B3	5	8	20	9	15	28	184	446	715
C4	48	15	86	80	52	60	327	465	1133
C5	5	9	25	17	14	15	83	275	443
D6	22	42	67	44	36	17	151	413	792
D7	14	7	9	15	13	4	48	320	430
SMS1	5	9	13	11	7	3	16	179	243
SMS2	2		6	1	3	2	2	90	106
SMS3			1	1	3	1	1	23	30
SMS4			1					2	3
Total	104	100	262	209	150	152	971	2521	4469

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Yours sincerely,

Business Management and Programmes Team



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