



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Knowledge and Technology Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

16 December 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1051-13

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2013 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I would like to know how much money in total has been spent on Computer Technology, Systems and Services within your Department over the last 10 financial years and how much of this budget has been spent on failed Systems and Services. By failed I mean those which have not been fully implemented following their full or part development.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested. I sincerely apologise for the time taken to respond to your FOI request.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information relevant to your request.

- a) FCO spending on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) since 2007 is listed below. We do not hold the information you require prior to 2007.

YEAR	IT SPEND
2007-2008	£162,445,746
2008-2009	£173,523,390
2009-2010	£159,963,569

2010-2011	£113,620,632
2011-2012	£91,700,915
2012-2013	£100,566,202

- b) We do not hold information on every computer technology system and services project that we have run across our network of 260 overseas posts centrally. However all such FCO services and projects are subject to rigorous project management controls to ensure they achieve their objectives and provide value for money for the taxpayer.

Projects with a value greater than £1 m are tracked through the Government Major Programmes Process (GMPP). No FCO projects relating to computer technology, systems and services tracked through this process have been classified as 'failed'.

Our financial systems do not allow us to quickly retrieve details of every project with a spend of under £1m. We estimate that the cost of complying fully with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. 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. Your request as presently formulated is widely-framed and we estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract the required information. Under section 16 of the act we are obliged to advise you to refine your request to bring it within the £600 limit, but unfortunately given the limitations of the search tools available and the time needed to collate and present the retrieved data it is not possible to refine this particular request. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request.

The FCO's ICT Strategy 2011-15 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fco-ict-strategy-2011-2015>) aims to modernise our infrastructure, improve training and awareness of technology in day-to-day work and rationalise the technology. The FCO also aims to provide better support to other parts of government who use our ICT platforms outside the UK. Further information on ICT Procurement at the FCO can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office/about/procurement#how-we-buy>

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,

KTD Knowledge through Technology



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