



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Counter Proliferation Department and
Arms Export Policy Department
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03 July 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0537-15

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

Could you kindly send me information on the total cost to the FCO of UK government delegations' attendance and participation at the following international meetings:

- *The 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, 27 April – 22 May 2015)*
- *The Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Vienna, 8-9 December 2014)*
- *Third Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Maputo, 23-7 June 2014)*
- *Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (San Jose, 2-5 September 2014)*
- *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (Geneva, 10-14 November 2014)*

In calculating costs, please consider including items such as:

- *Travel*
- *Accommodation*
- *Pro rata cost of staff salaries (including preparation if possible)*
- *Any additional expenses of sending staff to these meetings, or conducting work in the UK in relation to these meetings*
- *Any other additional costs or financial contributions to the meetings themselves, e.g. assessed costs for UN meetings*

If a full cost breakdown is not available, please inform me of the total expenditure on each meeting named above, indicating what this includes (travel, accommodation, etc.) if possible.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested. I can also confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

I would like to emphasise the UK Government's strong commitment to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and our desire to ensure that international norms are upheld and strengthened wherever possible. The FCO attaches considerable importance to effective and appropriate participation at international conferences central to our objectives.

Please find below the information that the FCO can release to you. I have interpreted your request to focus solely on the costs associated with FCO delegates attending and participating in the conferences in question, and have included the size of the delegation for comparative purposes. I have not included other FCO staff who had input to policy formulation in relation to those conferences as part of their normal daily jobs nor have we included the costs of staff from other Government departments who attended these Conferences. I hope that you are satisfied with this approach.

NPT Review Conference, New York, 27 April – 22 May 2015

Number of FCO delegates participating in all or part of the conference	16*
Non-salary costs (including travel, accommodation and meals)	£74,439
UK financial contribution to conference running costs (subject to change pending confirmation of final costs)	£177,325

* This figure includes Baroness Anelay, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who gave the UK's opening statement at the Review Conference and conducted a number of NPT-related meetings. The costs associated with her visit are therefore included.

Vienna Conference, 8 – 9 December 2014

Number of FCO staff participating in all or part of the conference	4
Non-salary costs (travel, accommodation, meals)	£1,216

3rd Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Maputo, 23 – 27 June 2014

Number of FCO staff participating in all or part of the conference	3
Non-salary costs (travel, accommodation, meals)	£7,077
UK financial contribution to conference running costs (subject to change pending confirmation of final costs)	£16,496

Fifth Meeting of State Parties, Convention on Cluster Munitions, San Jose, 2 – 5 September 2014

Number of FCO staff participating in all or part of the conference	2
Non-salary costs (travel, accommodation, meals)	£2,474
UK financial contribution to conference running costs (subject to change pending confirmation of final costs)	£21,903

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, Geneva, 10 – 14 November 2014

Number of FCO staff participating in all or part of the conference	1
Non-salary costs (travel, accommodation, meals)	£1,219
UK financial contribution to conference running costs (subject to change pending confirmation of final costs)	£33,607

We regret that some information on salary costs has been withheld as this would reveal personal data. It is our view that disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply in this case. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which we think would be breached by disclosure in this case. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. We do not therefore have to apply the public interest test.

However, we are able to provide total salary costs for the Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. As there were 16 FCO officials who participated in this Conference, it is our view that disclosure of this information would not breach the first data protection principle. The total salary costs for the Conference, based on average grade costs, including National Insurance and pension contributions were £40,826.

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Yours sincerely,

Counter Proliferation Department and Arms Export Policy Department



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