



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Political Section  
UK Permanent Representation to the EU  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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London SW1A 2AH

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20 October 2016

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0769-16**

Thank you for your email of 11 August 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked the FCO:

*Please can you provide the following information, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act:*

1. *How many job offers within the civil services were rescinded with the cancellation of the UK's presidency of the Council of the EU?*
2. *Was counselling offered by UK Representation to the EU (UKREP) to staff after the EU referendum result? If so, what was the cost of this service?*

We hold some of the information you have requested.

The UK Representation to the EU rescinded 9 job offers to existing civil servants, plus two offers to upgrade existing jobs, with the cancellation of the UK's presidency of the Council of the EU. Those individuals continued to work for the UK civil services in other posts. A further 13 local recruitments were cancelled, whilst 8 job slots created in the FCO in London to support the Presidency were transferred to DExEU (Department for exiting the EU). We do not hold details on job offers made or rescinded elsewhere within the civil service.

The health and welfare of staff are top priorities for the FCO, which provides a confidential, 24/7 counselling service to all employees (Employee Assistance Programme) offering the opportunity of resolving and managing both everyday situations and more serious problems, which may be causing staff concern, whether of a work or personal nature. Counselling was offered in Brussels to all staff in the 3 UK Missions and Devolved Administration Offices in both the spring and summer and covered a range of issues, including follow up to the terrorist attacks in March.

The total cost for the summer session was £4,090.63. You will be aware that there is a high threat from terrorism in Belgium and the Belgians assess this to be a serious and real threat (level 3), resulting in a visible military presence in the city.

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Yours sincerely,

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