



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Estates Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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04 May 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0388-16

Thank you for your email of 8th April 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. Does your ministerial department have an art collection or a contract to supply various artistic works to your buildings and offices?*
- 2. If yes, please could you provide me with the amount this is worth, or the amount you have spent on these contracts to supply artistic works to you?*
- 3. Could I have this amounts spent on this for the past 5 years.*
- 4. If you do have artwork leased or owned, please could you provide a brief description of what the works are?*

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.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have a contract to supply artistic works to its buildings and offices. The majority of art on display in FCO buildings at home and overseas comes from the Government Art Collection (GAC). The GAC is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and has a cross-governmental role to promote British art while contributing to cultural diplomacy. It does so by displaying works of art in government buildings in the UK and around the world. You can get further information about the GAC here <http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/>.

The FCO does own a limited number of artworks which are not part of the GAC, and no original artwork has been purchased to add to these since May 2010.

The net book value of FCO owned Antiques and Works of Art is stated in the FCO's Annual Report & Accounts: 2014- 2015 here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-and-commonwealth-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2014-to-2015>. The value stated for this asset class does not include GAC items but does incorporate FCO-owned items (e.g. antiques) which are not Works of Art.

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Yours sincerely,

Estates Department



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