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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – REQUEST REFERENCE: 0716-16

Thank you for your email of 27th July 2016 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). In your e-mail you requested:

“A copy of the most recent ‘Cellar Wines And Spirits Consumption’ document detailing what alcohol has been consumed from the government wine cellar.”

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information relevant to your request. You may wish to be aware that the full list of all wines and spirits used from the government wine cellar is published each year as part of the Annual Statement on the Government Hospitality Wine Cellar that is placed before Parliament. The last statement made on 16 July 2015 gave the figures for 2014-2015 and a record can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445383/Final_Annual_Statement_GH_Wine_Cellar_14-15_13_07_15.pdf

A further Written Ministerial Statement on the Government Wine Cellar covering the period 2015-16 will be made later in the autumn. We therefore consider this information exempt from publication at this time under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Information intended for future publication). Section 22 provides that:

Information is exempt information if:

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not)
- (b) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

The exemption under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act recognises that it must be reasonable in all the circumstances to withhold the information until the date of publication. Given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing the information, we consider that our publication timetable is reasonable. The use of Section 22 also requires the application of a public interest test. We have considered this carefully and

do not believe that it would be in the public interest at this time to publish the information that will soon be placed before Parliament.

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Yours sincerely,

Government Hospitality
Protocol Directorate



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