



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Overseas Territories Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

23 June 2015

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0501-15**

Thank you for your email of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. In the first of two questions, you ask:

*“How much public money does the UK government spend on the following fourteen British Overseas Territories and three Crown Dependencies, broken down per territory/dependency, and further broken down into the individual areas of expenditure for each territory e.g. defence, infrastructure, etc?”*

*British Overseas Territories*

*Akrotiri and Dhekelia  
Anguilla  
Bermuda  
British Antarctic Territory  
British Indian Ocean Territory  
British Virgin Islands  
Cayman Islands  
Falkland Islands  
Gibraltar  
Montserrat  
Pitcairn Islands  
Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha  
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands  
Turks and Caicos Islands*

*Crown Dependencies*

*Bailiwick of Jersey  
Bailiwick of Guernsey  
Isle of Man*

I have established that the information you requested is not held by this Department.

The UK Government's spend on the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is not information held centrally by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The

Government set out its strategy to the Overseas Territories in the 2012 White Paper “The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability”, link below. This made clear that the Overseas Territories are a cross Whitehall responsibility with each Department leading on its particular area of expertise. Many areas of responsibilities lie with the democratically elected Territory Governments but the UK retains responsibility for external affairs, defence, internal security and the appointment, discipline and removal of public officers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-overseas-territories>

However, the FCO does operate a Strategic Programme Fund for the Overseas Territories to the value of £4.75 million in 2015/16. This includes; a £500,000 contribution to Darwin Plus – an environmental sustainability fund to which the Department for International Development and the Department for Food and Rural Affairs also contribute; and £740,000 towards the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the British Antarctic Survey. The remainder of the FCO spend goes towards good governance projects across the Overseas Territories, focussing on issues around capacity building, security and policing, and providing disaster management training and expertise.

You may also wish to note that the Department leading on the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia is the Ministry of Defence (MOD): contact information can be found on their [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk) website. MOD may also be able to provide you with information relating to their defence and related spending as it pertains to the other Overseas Territories.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is the lead Government Department for the constitutional relationship between the UK and the Crown Dependencies, about whom you also refer. MoJ contact details can found on the [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk) website.

In the second part of your FOI request, you ask:

*“Which of these territories and dependencies make payments to the UK treasury to reimburse or contribute to the spending they receive from the UK public purse? If payments are made, are they collected through a local 'UK' income tax or does the government of that territory make payments directly from their own budget?”*

Neither the Overseas Territories nor the Crown Dependencies make payments to the UK Treasury. They are not part of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and have no direct representation in the House of Commons or Lords.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on [gov.uk](https://gov.uk) in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

Yours sincerely,

Economic & Financial Team  
Overseas Territories Directorate



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