



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Near East Department
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www.gov.uk/fco

19 September 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0812-14

Thank you for your letter of 13 August asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Could you please provide me with the total costs paid by the UK budget for the expenditures of the Office of the Quartet Representative for the Middle East, Tony Blair. Could you show the costs for each year since the creation of the Office.

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) holds some information relevant to your request.

Since its inception in 2007, the Office of the Quartet Representative (OQR) has been funded by donations from Quartet members, including the European Commission, EU member states and the US. Donations are pooled in a trust fund which is managed and administered by the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

In November 2007 the then Secretary for State for International Development approved a one-off payment of £400,000 from the UK to UNDP to help with the costs of setting up the OQR. Other countries also contributed to the set up costs: Norway gave \$1 million; the European Commission \$2 million; and the US provided IT equipment.

The UK does not currently provide financial support to cover the costs of the OQR, but the Department for International Development (DFID) has two members of staff seconded to the OQR (one policy adviser and one private sector development adviser). For further information on these you may wish to contact the DFID FOI Team at foi@dfid.gov.uk.

The FCO also seconded two full-time members of staff to the OQR from 2007 until 2013. These consisted of one senior civil servant from June 2007 until March 2010 and then one Grade 6 equivalent from March 2010 until June 2013. This was in addition to one higher executive officer equivalent from June 2007 until December 2010, followed by an executive officer equivalent from January 2011 until August 2012 and then an administrative officer equivalent from September 2012 until June 2013. We do not hold a record of the costs of these secondments to the FCO.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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Yours sincerely,

Near East Department