



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Visits, Protocol
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22 August 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0726-16

Thank you for your email of 29 July 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked for:

'In the document titled 'State and Guest of Government visits - January 2015 to March 2016', £91,372.81 of expenditure for the Chinese state visit in October 2015 was recorded as 'Entertainment'. Please provide a full, itemised breakdown of all entertainment costs during that visit.'

For a State Visit, Principals are invited to the UK as a guest of Her Majesty The Queen. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) covers the costs of a State Visit, which includes accommodation, transport, food and incidentals (to a set limit) in the UK. Costs towards food and incidentals are grouped under entertainment and FCO will pay these costs for the Official Delegation (Principal plus 10 ministers or senior officials) during the official programme only. In addition, the FCO will cover entertainment costs for one advance reconnaissance programme for the official members of that delegation.

For the China State Visit, the final entertainment cost includes a number of official lunches and dinners, including the State Banquet and lunch with the Prime Minister. Within these events, there are a number of additional costs which is grouped under entertainment. These additional costs include staffing, equipment hire, stationery and video services. The FCO also paid for lunch and beverages for the advance reconnaissance programme.

The FCO does not hold the itemised breakdown of all entertainment. This information is held by Buckingham Palace, who are exempt from the FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

Protocol Directorate



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