



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Diplomatic Missions and  
International Organisations Unit  
Protocol Directorate**

Room KG.01  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

[www.gov.uk/fco](http://www.gov.uk/fco)

14 June 2016

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0561-16**

Thank you for your email of 3 June asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*Please provide me with the names of the ten diplomatic missions/international organisations that have the most financial penalties logged against them for outstanding parking fines combined with fines logged against them that were later waived by councils for the entire period covering the five years to the end of 2015. Please state the name of the mission/organisation and the total in fines against it which are either outstanding or has now been waived.*

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information you requested.

We can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

Some of the information which we hold and which is relevant to your request is, in our view, already reasonably accessible to you and under Section 21 of the FOIA (Information Accessible by Other Means) we are not required to provide this information. In an email of 22 May 2015 you asked:

*Please provide me with the names of the ten diplomatic missions/international organisations that have the most financial penalties logged against them for outstanding parking fines combined with fines logged against them that were later waived by councils for the entire period covering the five years to the end of 2013. Please state the name of the mission/organisation and the total in fines against it which are either outstanding or has now been waived.*

On 16 June 2015 we replied to you (Ref. 0488-15) explaining that some of the information you requested was then already reasonably accessible to you. We later published a redacted copy of our letter to you on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK). In our reply we referred to the Foreign Secretary's annual Written Ministerial Statements (WMS) to Parliament on diplomatic parking fines. We provided links to where these Statements can be found on the Parliament website. A subsequent Statement, giving details for 2014, can be found [here](#). The Foreign Secretary will make a further Written Ministerial Statement in July this year, covering diplomatic parking fines in 2015. This information is therefore exempt under section 22 of the FOIA (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 FOIA 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.

Finally, some of the information you have requested remains exempt under Section 12 of the FOIA (£600 cost limit) for the reasons given in our letter of 16 June 2015. We repeat our suggestion that individual councils and TfL may hold the information you require, in easily retrievable formats.

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](http://gov.uk) in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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Yours sincerely,

Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations Unit  
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