



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FOI and DPA Team
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
K4.14
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

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Email: FOI-DPA.IMD@fco.gov.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0161-15

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

1) The total cost of translators and the cost of translating documents to be used by the department or put in the public domain.

I would like this information from every year from 2010 to current day.

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) does hold some information relevant to your request.

Translation and Interpreting Services are supplied to the FCO by FCO Services. FCO Services is an Executive Agency of the FCO and has operated as a Trading Fund since April 2008. FCO Services provide services to the FCO in the UK and over 270 locations overseas.

Figures for translation services are not held separately and the following information are the costs of Translation and Interpreting Services provided by FCO Services for financial years from 2010. It is not possible to provide the figure for this financial year as it has not yet closed:

FY 2010 -2011	£68,000
FY 2011 – 2012	£171,000
FY 2012 – 2013	£137,000
FY 2013 – 2014	£306,000

This information may not include all costs of translation services used by the FCO and its posts overseas. To identify any further costs for translation services incurred by individual departments and our network of over 270 overseas posts by other suppliers would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with FOI requests under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit

has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Your request as presently formulated is widely-framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request. You may therefore wish to refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit. You may wish to ask for the costs for a specific post or department in the UK. We will then consider whether we can provide the information requested within the appropriate cost limit. This would of course be subject to the consideration of whether any of the other exemptions under the FOI Act apply.

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

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Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer
Knowledge Management Department

