



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Estates Department**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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27 January 2016

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0025-16**

Thank you for your email of the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*The total annual amount (in £) spent on rental accommodation per individual staff members broken down by civil service grade in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Uganda and Rwanda, in the last full year that full figures are available (presumably 2014/15 financial year)*

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 information relevant to your request.

Your request was for total rental paid on accommodation, shown per individual staff member by grade. We consider some of information likely to endanger the safety of individuals and some information has therefore been withheld under **Section 38(1)(a)(b)**. In applying the public interest test the FCO took into consideration the factors in favour of disclosure; in this case that releasing such information would demonstrate openness and public accountability towards the accommodation arrangements for the personnel based in the countries listed above. The FCO is aware that there is a public interest in disclosing information regarding details of residential accommodation in the countries listed above. However, release of this information could pose a significant risk to the personal safety of a specific individual or individuals. For this reason we therefore judge that the public interest in withholding this information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

However, we are able to provide you with the total amount spent by the FCO on accommodation rental in each country for the financial year 2014/15 as shown below:

Residential Rental Payments — 2014/15

**\*Republic of Burundi**

**Democratic Republic of Congo:**

<i>Kinshasa</i>	<i>£20,340.05</i>
<i>Goma</i>	<i>£2,741.77</i>

**Angola:**

<i>Luanda</i>	<i>£52,640.91</i>
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**Uganda:**

<i>Kampala</i>	<i>£39,304.11</i>
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**Rwanda:**

<i>Kigali</i>	<i>£66,719.54</i>
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\*The FCO has a Liaison Office in Republic of Burundi, which is staffed locally, and does not pay accommodation rental here.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Estates Department



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.