



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

23 November 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1017-15

Thank you for your email of 26 October asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

As a follow-up to my previous FOI, I would like to make a further inquiry under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the September FCO delegation to Geneva, which operated with regards to FCO objectives on Bahrain, and which was the subject of the above request (reference 0952-15).

Could you kindly inform me of the total cost to the FCO of the delegation to Geneva? Please also provide a breakdown of costs such as:

- *Travel*
- *Accommodation*
- *Pro-rata cost of staff salaries (including preparation if possible)*
- *Any additional expenses of sending staff to these meetings, or conducting work in the UK in relation to these meetings*
- *Any other additional costs or financial contributions to the meetings themselves*
- *Any additional costs associated with individual meetings*

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

The total cost to the FCO of the delegation to Geneva was £6,841.72. As you are already aware there were five members in the delegation (of whom two were FCO staff members) and the total costs were as follows:

Flights (for delegation) = £1,292.24

Accommodation (for delegation) =£2,100.38

Meals (for delegation) = £457.71

Taxis (for delegation) = £231.39

We regret that the information you requested on salary costs has been withheld as this would reveal personal data. It is our view that disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply in this case. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which we think would be breached by disclosure in this case. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. We do not therefore have to apply the public interest test.

In response to your other questions I can confirm that there were no additional costs of sending staff to these meetings.

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.

The copies of information being supplied to you continue to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCO will have been produced by government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives website.

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non-Crown Copyright) information.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department

