



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

South East Asia Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

3 January 2017

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 1133-16

Thank you for your emails of 3, 7 and 8 December asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

'I would like to know the total cost including travel and accommodation for the LGBTI conference in Bangkok on the 27 November 2016' (3 December)

'I would like the information for the meeting of the 27th' (7 December)

'I would like to know names of those who attended with their expense related costs including travel to and from Thailand also accommodation expenses and length of time in Thailand. The cost incurred when using the venue at the embassy in Bangkok including security and refreshments.' (8 December)

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.

Please find attached the information that the FCO can release to you. Some of the information you have requested is personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

Yours sincerely,

South East Asia 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.

**FOI 1133-16 Information regarding an LGBTI Event at the British Embassy Bangkok
27 November 2016**

The event was hosted by Margaret Tongue, the Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy, Bangkok in partnership with two organisations: the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health, known as APCOM, and Stonewall UK. We are not able to release the names of those who attended due to their rights under 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act.

There were 2 parts to the event: a panel discussion for 40 people and then a reception for 120 people. The panel discussion prior to the reception focused on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning (LGBTIQ) issues in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Burma, and Thailand. The speakers were activists from those countries. The audience was made up of diplomats, international media and NGOs. The reception followed the panel event. Those already there were joined by a wide range of LGBTIQ focused organisations from around the world, especially from South East Asia and Thailand, including representatives from the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, known as ILGA. Other Embassies and UN bodies based in Bangkok were also represented.

The Embassy did not pay for any expenses connected to any participant attending either the panel event or the reception. The Embassy was not involved in their travel arrangements.

The total cost for using the venue at the embassy in Bangkok including security and refreshments was 34,786.99 THB (£773.77 at £1 = 44.9580 THB), see breakdown below.

Other costs, such as for the rainbow kratongs, decorating the Residence, backdrops, montage and demontage, etc. were covered by APCOM. We have not been informed of these costs.

Breakdown:

Security

Extra security (Sat 26 Nov to Mon 28 Nov) = 5,219.23 THB (£116.09 at £1 = 44.9580 THB)

Staff

The charge for extra waiters = 4,600 THB (£102.32 at £1 = 44.9580 THB)

Food & Drink

Drinks = 10,136 THB (£225.45 at £1 = 44.9580 THB)

Food = 14,831.76 THB (£329.90 at £1 = 44.9580 THB)