



Foreign &
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11 March 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0120 - 15

Thank you for your email of 04 February 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- '1. The Africa Conflict Prevention Pool was set up in 2001, later renamed as the Africa Conflict Pool. What, if any, information can be provided on how much money has been spent on the pool each year since then?*
- 2. Is there a breakdown of how this money has been spent in each of these years? Where is this made available to the general public?*
- 3. How has this spending been evaluated and monitored? When is the last time that it was monitored and evaluated? What, if any, information can be provided on such evaluations?*
- 4. How much money has been spent on the African Standby Force since 2005?'*

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. Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you

The published reports of the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP) covering the years between 2001 and 2009 can be found at the following links:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100202121650/http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/perf-rpt-africa-confl-prev-pool-2001-05.pdf>

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100409151636/http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/acpp-annual-report-06>

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20091211105854/http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/annual-rpt-africa-confl-prev-prog-2007-08.pdf>

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100409151640/http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/acpp-annual-report>

From 2009 the ACPD was merged with the Global Conflict Pool to form the Conflict Pool and the combined Conflict Pool for 2009-10 can be found at the link below. Since then written ministerial statements have been published before parliament giving the levels of spends for the Conflict Pool. The statements can be found at the web pages below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/67639/conflict-pool-annual-report.pdf

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100325/wmstext/100325m0003.htm#10032542000392>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110405/wmstext/110405m0001.htm#11040558000008.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121119/wmstext/121119m0001.htm#1211195000006.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130613/wmstext/130613m0001.htm#13061331000006.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140624/wmstext/140624m0001.htm>

The breakdown of figures is included in the reports above. The UK reports its ODA spend to the OECD DAC twice yearly. Both sets of data are also produced in reports as part of the UK national statistics.

The first report is called Provisional UK ODA as a proportion of Gross National Income (GNI) and is published in April.

The second and more comprehensive report is called 'Statistics on International Development' and is published in September.

The Conflict Pool was reviewed by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) in 2012. A copy of the report can be found at:

<http://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Evaluation-of-the-Inter-Departmental-Conflict-Pool-ICAI-Report1.pdf>

The National Audit Office also carried out a review of the Conflict Pool in 2012 and their report is available at:

<http://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Review-of-the-Conflict-Pool.pdf>

The Conflict Pool is a tri-departmental resource administered by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and as such not all of the financial data is held by the FCO. From the available financial records, the FCO has contributed £1,373,249 to supporting the African Standby Force since 2005. It is possible that projects may have indirectly supported the ASF but it is not possible to verify this or calculate amounts without detailed analysis of

individual project documentation. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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 wish to refine your request to cover FCO activity in support of the ASF over the previous 2 or 3 years. This may then bring your request within the cost threshold.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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Yours sincerely,

African Strategy and Network Unit | Africa Directorate

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