



03 July 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0649-16

Thank you for your email of 6th July asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. Please advise the total staff headcount that are employed directly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with each part-time employee counted as one employee. Please exclude all temporary agency workers from this figure.*
- 2. Please identify each supplier that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a contract with to supply temporary agency workers.*
- 3. Please identify: a. the type of contract that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has with each of these suppliers (preferred supplier list/ framework/ etc. If framework, please indicate b. which - e.g. MSTAR/ YPO/ Panel London/ Pan London/ NPS All Wales/ Crown Commercial Services/ etc; and c. whether this is on a neutral/ master/ hybrid vender model, or the lot number.*
- 4. Please advise for each contract identified within (2) above of: a. the current end date of the contract; b. the date(s) that any break clause(s) can be enabled; and c. the length of time of any extension that can be enabled.*
- 5. Please advise of the full name of the main contact at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who is responsible for the main (or majority of the) contract(s) identified within (2) above, together with their:*
 - a. job title;*
 - b. group (either team, division or department, whichever is the smallest identifiable group);*
 - c. telephone number;*
 - d. email; and*
 - e. full postal address, inc postcode.*
- 6. Please identify all suppliers that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has sourced a temporary agency worker from - but does not have a contract with - from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.*

7. For each temporary agency supplier (either a. contracted as identified within (2) above; b. non-contracted as identified within (6) above; and c. all workers the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has sourced directly), how much has been spent on each supplier (or directly), from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016?

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested and can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

We are only providing details of centrally let contracts that are used by the FCO in the UK. Authority to enter into contracts is devolved to directorates and departments within the FCO in London as well as the global network of overseas missions in over 170 countries. To provide details of all contracts and spend for temporary agency workers can only be obtained at disproportionate cost. This is in full compliance with Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

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.

The answers to your questions are as follows:

1. The FCO has 4,337 UK-based staff (as of 30th June 2016).
2. The FCO has a Temporary Agency worker supply contract with Hays Specialist Recruitment.
3. The FCO's contract with Hays Specialist Recruitment is a Managed Service Provider contract placed via the National Collaborative Emergency Services (NCES) framework for Temporary and Agency staff. The contract is on a master vendor model.
4. The current end date of the FCO/Hays contract is 30 September 2016. The contract has been extended on a rolling basis since the initial contract period came to an end in summer 2013.
5. The details have been withheld under s.40.
6. The details have been withheld under s.12.
7. The FCO spent £4.7m with Hays Specialist Recruitment in FY15-16.

Yours sincerely,

Commercial Procurement Group



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.