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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI-0639-16

Thank you for your email of 1 July 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“I would like to know the number of FTE positions in the FCO working on climate change and energy (CCE) issues from 2006/7 until 2016. If staffing projections for the coming year are available I would like to know those as well.

You fulfilled a similar request for 2013/14 and 2014/15 (FOI 0353-15).

I would like the same answer in the same format, extended to the additional years requested.”

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

The FCO works actively across the international climate and energy agenda including working closely in partnership with departments across Whitehall. Climate change and energy (CCE) work is a network wide priority, so at different times forms part of a wide range of officers' work, including Heads of Mission and staff at all levels. The time allocated varies widely from a very small part of an officer's time to full time work on CCE.

In line with the data supplied in FOI 0353-15, we have identified activity allocated towards 'Climate Change/Low Carbon Economy/Energy Security' on our financial systems. These figures rely on individual staff member's recording of their activities, and show numbers of FCO staff Full Time Equivalent (FTE) who spend some time in this policy area. The resource is allocated as part of broader geographical activity so exact numbers can change. Hence we are able to provide a snapshot of the number of staff at a point in time.

Earlier this year, while responding to FOI 0231-16 we identified an error in the figures in FOI 0353-15, referenced in your request and we therefore corrected this data in response to FOI 0231-16. The FCO has interpreted your request for data comparable to that in FOI 0353-15 to cover staff working on CCE in FCO Embassies, High Commission and other overseas Posts. Therefore the table below illustrates comparable data, in the same format, for the extended period you have requested.

Our methods for collecting data have changed over the period requested. Any data for the figures provided for 2014-2016 (i.e. that included in FOI 0231-16) were collected in January. For the period 2009-2013 data was collected quarterly. The figures identified below reflect the number of FTE staff from the first quarter of each respective year, ending in March.

Full time equivalent (FTE) staff working in FCO Embassies, High Commissions and other overseas Posts on climate change and energy (CCE):

	FTE staff working 100% on CCE issues	FTE staff working part of their time on CCE issues	TOTAL FTE staff involved in CCE work
Mar 2009	78	199	277
Mar 2010	95	170	265
Mar 2011	74	130	204
Mar 2012	60	111	171
Mar 2013	72	105	177
Jan 2014	86	91	177
Jan 2015	79	79	158
Jan 2016	72	77	149

For the period 2006-2008, the data on climate change and energy activity was recorded annually, using a different method and format. From this data, we are not readily able to distinguish between staff working 100% on climate and energy, and those who spend a smaller portion of their time on these issues. As a result we have presented these in a separate table below.

Total full time equivalent (FTE) staff working in FCO Embassies, High Commissions and other overseas Posts on climate change and energy (CCE):

	TOTAL FTE staff involved in CCE work
Mar 2007	84
Mar 2008	179

Our allocation of resource is kept under regular review as staff and local priorities change so there is often a flux in numbers and locations. We therefore cannot offer projections of staffing numbers.

Further information regarding the FCO's priorities in supporting international action on climate change and the action we are taking can be found on the Gov.uk website at [Policy - Supporting international action on climate change – GOV.UK](#).

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Yours sincerely,

Open Government Liaison Officer
Climate Change and Energy