



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Human Resources Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

30 March 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0237-17

Thank you for your email of 3 March 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I am writing to request, under the FOI Act, information on FCO secondments to and from the private sector. I would like this to include the following:

The number of civil servants from your department who are seconded to work in the private sector and the number of these civil servants at each private sector company they have gone to. I would like an indication of who is paying their wages while they are on secondment. I would also like to know how many of them were seconded from the the British Embassies in Saudi Arabia, Israel, Bahrain, Oman, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates in particular.

I would like to know the number of private-sector workers seconded to your department and the number of these workers in each part of your department, particularly the above-mentioned embassies. I would like an indication of who is paying their wages while they are on secondment. I would a breakdown of how many workers from which companies are at the DTI (eg 7 from Barclays, 6 from Mcdonalds).

I would like this information in a machine-readable spreadsheet and to include a list of acronyms used.

You later clarified that where you said 'DTI', you meant 'FCO'. You also clarified:

I would like to know this information as of today. Or the most recent information you have. I'm interested in the situation at present, rather than over (for example) the last ten years.

I mean both inward and outward secondments.

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.

Secondments are an opportunity for the FCO and external organisations to share best practice. The FCO supports secondments to external organisations if they have a clear objective to build the skills and experience that our staff need to provide the best possible service to British Nationals and businesses.

Please find below our response to your specific questions:

We are unable to release information in all cases where there are fewer than five staff members seconded to an organisation at any given time as this could potentially allow them to be identified. This is in accordance with section 40 – personal information, of the FOI Act. Section 40(2) and (3) provides an absolute exemption for personal data. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act.

We can confirm that 5 FCO staff members are currently seconded to roles in the private sector at 5 different organisations. All current secondees are UK-based staff and are therefore not seconded directly from an overseas diplomatic post.

We currently have fewer than 5 colleagues on inward secondment to the FCO. We are therefore unable to confirm the precise numbers.

The salary costs of secondees are paid by the home Department or organisation and reimbursed by the receiving Department or organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Human Resources Directorate



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.