



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Commercial Procurement Group**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

01 August 2017

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

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0620-17**

Thank you for your email of 27 June 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*To ask the Secretary of State how much his Department spent on travel that was not standard class in each of the last five years, including rail and air fares. I would like this information broken down by year and mode of transport.*

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.

The FCO's spend on non standard class travel is detailed in the table below as First class rail and Business class air travel. The data represents travel booked through the Government's nominated travel agency.

Financial Year	First Class Rail Travel	Business Class Air Travel
2012/13	£19,724	£6,103,300
2013/14	£1,590	£5,421,348
2014/15	£3,057	£4,496,046
2015/16	£2,597	£4,629,774
2016/17	£142	£3,330,264

The FCO ensures value for money in all its expenditure and costs on non standard class travel have almost halved over the last five years. FCO staff travelling by air are expected to

book the lowest fare available. FCO officials may only fly business class on flights of more than 10 hours or on flights of more than 5 hours in exceptional circumstances.

All FCO staff are directed to use standard class for rail travel unless there are exceptional circumstances for example due to illness or disability.

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.