



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Facilities Management Client Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

25 July 2017

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0627-17

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

I am writing to request information, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, on:

- i) How much food was procured for the catering operations for which your department has responsibility in (a) 2015-2016 (b) 2016-2017 in pounds.*
- ii) What proportion (%) of that food procured in (a) 2015-2016 (b) 2016-2017 was UK produced.*
- iii) Do you ensure the Government Buying Standards are adhered to?*
- iv) If so, how?*
- v) Do you have a policy in place for procuring UK produced food for your catering operations.*
- vi) If so what is your policy?*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that although the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) itself does not hold information relevant to your request, our Catering contractor does and has provided the following information:

- i) The FCO has used an outsourced Catering contractor to provide a staff catering service for the UK during the period concerned. Consequently nothing was spent directly by the FCO on food procurement for this contracted service during the period (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17. Our catering contractor has advised, however, that the total value of food procured by them for the FCO Catering contract was:*

a. For 2015-16 - £1,020,540 b. For 2016-17 - £1,320,814

ii) I am able to advise that the percentage of the total food procured for the FCO Catering Contract, produced in Britain, was:

a. 38.7% in 2015-16 b. 41.4% in 2016-17

iii) Yes

iv) GBS compliant recipes in Company database and Supply chain that supports GBS by filtering the Approved Product List (APL).

v) Yes

vi) We adopt the Government Buying Standards guidance produced by the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) which encourages wherever possible the local and seasonal sourcing of food. This means that the Contractor seeks to source seasonal food from local supplies wherever this is commercially viable. This is set against the background that, under EC procurement rules, an organisation cannot legitimately stipulate a particular country of origin as a criterion for evaluation.

Yours sincerely,

Facilities Management Client Unit

