



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

18 August 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0734-17

Thank you for your email of 2 August 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

How much money has the Foreign Office spent on private school fees for the children of staff stationed in the UK in the academic year 2015-16? 2016-17? For each academic year, can I find out how many people were in receipt of these payments?

How much money has the Foreign Office spent on private school fees for the children of staff station abroad in the UK in the academic year 2015-16? 2016-17? For each year, can I find out how many people were in receipt of these payments?

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.

It is a condition of their employment that members of the diplomatic service must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five years. Most parents prefer to take their children with them abroad, but in some of the 168 countries and territories where the FCO has UK based staff, we do not permit staff to take their children either for health or security reasons. In others, there are no available schools of an acceptable standard. It is longstanding practice that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) helps staff meet their potentially conflicting obligations by providing financial support to ensure the continuity of their children's education.

Please see below the information the FCO can release to you for the completed financial year 2016/2017. We are unable to provide the information by academic year as our information is held centrally by financial year.

	Home			Overseas		
Financial Year	Officers		Cost	Officers		Cost
2016/17	172		£5,335,413	174		£7,367,696

The same information for the completed financial year 2015/2016 can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-release-education-allowance-2016>

This information is exempt from release under Section 21 as it is reasonably accessible to you on the gov.uk public website.

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.