



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

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

15 December 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 1114-17

Thank you for your email of 22 November 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

How many disposable cups has your Department purchased in each year for the last five years?

How many reusable plastic cups have been purchased for sale and how many have been sold, in each year for the last five years?

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 below table highlights the available information held on the number of disposable cups purchased by the FCO UK operations in each year for the last five years. These figures are based on those cups purchased centrally by our catering supplier, and do not contain any individual ad hoc purchases of cups by teams within the office or purchases by our overseas missions.

	Water cups	Hot beverage cups
2013	Data not available	Data not available
2014	Data not available	Data not available
2015	Data not available	Data not available
2016	Data not available	654,156
2017	285,600	655,718

The below table highlights the available information held on the number of reusable plastic cups that have been purchased for sale, and sold in each year for the last five years.

	Reusable plastic cups purchased
2013	0
2014	0
2015	0
2016	0
2017	120

Since May 2017, the FCO have provided disposable cup recycling bins and offered discounts on hot drinks purchased in reusable cups in its food and drink outlets to minimise disposable cup waste and support the recycling of disposable cups. In November 2017, glasses were provided by drinking water fountains in the food and drink outlets to minimise the use of disposable plastic cups.

By the end of the Financial Year 2017-18 it is forecast that 14,400 disposable cups will have been prevented from being used and 100,000 cups will have been recycled by the FCO.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Facilities Management Client Unit



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.