



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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19 December 2017

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1112-17**

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

*I would like to know how many foreign office properties have been sold off in the last 18 months. I would like you to break down the information into the name of the property, where it is located, when it was sold and how much it was sold for.*

*If you feel that the cost of this request is likely to exceed the limit, please focus the request on properties which are based in Africa and Asia.*

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 carefully manages its estate to provide the best value for the taxpayer. The properties below have been sold as they were either no longer fit for current purpose or were surplus to requirements in the respective locations as new properties were found. Proceeds from sales are reinvested into the estate.

| Location   | Previous Use                       | Sale Period | Price £*   |
|------------|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| BUDAPEST   | Residential Property               | FY 2016-17  | 1,429,600  |
| WASHINGTON | Residential Property x 4           | FY 2016-17  | 1,848,400  |
| SINGAPORE  | High Commissioner's Residence Land | FY 2016-17  | 32,918,700 |
| VANCOUVER  | British Consul General's Residence | FY 2016-17  | 9,050,900  |
| COPENHAGEN | Ambassador's Residence             | FY 2016-17  | 3,132,900  |
| CANBERRA   | Residential Property               | FY 2016-17  | 1,329,000  |
| PALMA      | Office                             | FY 2016-17  | 166,300    |

|               |                          |            |           |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|
| ST PETERSBURG | Residential Property x 4 | FY 2016-17 | 1,371,900 |
| NICOSIA       | Residential Property     | FY 2016-17 | 2,118,000 |
| NAIROBI       | Residential Property     | FY 2016-17 | 1,434,700 |
| BRUSSELS      | Residential Property     | FY 2016-17 | 563,000   |
| WARSAW        | Residential Property     | FY 2017-18 | 244,600   |
| MARSEILLES    | Office                   | FY 2017-18 | 420,400   |
| CANBERRA      | Residential Property     | FY 2017-18 | 660,400   |

\* Net disposal values are shown taking into account disposal costs. Values rounded.

Some of the information is exempt under Section 43 (2) of the Act, which relates to commercial interests. This relates to the November 2017 sale of the former Residence in Jakarta.

The use of this exemption was carefully considered. The factors in favour of disclosure of this information, including the general public interest and greater transparency and accountability, were carefully weighed against the need to allow business-people and commercial organisations the space to conduct their lawful business competitively and without fear of disclosure of sensitive commercial information. We consider that this transparency also poses risks to the protection of commercially confidential information. Failure to protect such commercially sensitive information would limit the sources of information and interlocutors available to the FCO and limit the FCO's ability to promote the British economy and lobby for the interests of British businesses overseas. In this case after such consideration we believe that the public interest in withholding the redacted information outweighs the public interest in its release.

Yours sincerely,

Estates Department



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.