



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Internal Audit Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

23 February 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0033-18

Thank you for your email of 11 January 2018 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Dear The Foreign and Commonwealth Office,

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

How many times has the Foreign and Commonwealth Office been defrauded in each of the last five financial years including the current year to 05/01/2018? Please state the number of incidents, if any as well as the amount of money lost in each case, and a log (redacted where necessary) describing what happened in each incident.

If it is not possible to answer this request in its entirety due to one or more questions exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please answer the ones that do not exceed the limits and disregard the ones that do.

If it is not possible to provide any of the information requested due to the request exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under your Section 16 obligations, as to how I can refine my request to be included in the scope of the Act.

In any case, if you can identify ways that my request could be refined please provide further advice and assistance to indicate this.

I look forward to your response within 20 working days, as stipulated by the Act.

If you have any queries or clarification requests, please don't hesitate to contact me via email.

At our request on 11 January 2018 you refined and clarified your request as follows;

Cases in the UK only, if that allows you to answer it.

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.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK has been the target of two frauds in the time period 1 April 2013 to 5 January 2018.

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. Details of the fraud perpetrated in 2014 against the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in the UK are contained in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Annual Report and Accounts 2014 – 2015. A copy of this report can be found on www.gov.uk.

A fraud was also perpetrated against the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 2017 through the misuse of a Corporate Credit Card and a Government Procurement Card. There was no material loss from this fraud as all misused funds were recovered. Some of the information has been withheld under Section 31(1)(a) of the Act, because disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. This is because the information you requested relates to an ongoing investigation into whether a crime has been committed. This exemption also requires the application of a public interest test. The exemption in section 31(1)(a) is designed to cover all aspects of the prevention and detection of crime. Maintaining confidence in law enforcement and the criminal justice system is crucial to the public interest. This is a public interest consideration which, depending on the circumstances, may weigh both for and against disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

Internal Audit 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.