



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FCO Services
King Charles Street
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

08 March 2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0162-19

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

Could I please request the following IT information for FCO Services under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Local Area Network

- a) *What Manufacturer is your LAN Network?*
- b) *What date does your support contract come up for renewal on the LAN Network?*
- c) *What is the current cost of the LAN Network Support?*
- d) *Which company is the support contract with?*

2. Contacts

- a) *Who is responsible for ICT in the organisation and what are their contact details?*
- b) *Who is responsible for ICT Infrastructure in the organisation and what are their contact details?*
- c) *Who is responsible for ICT Purchasing in the organisation and what are their contact details?*

3. Staff

- a) *How many IT users do you have?*
- b) *How many locations/offices do you have?*

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

I can confirm that the FCO Services does hold information relevant to your request.

Local Area Network

- a) This information is withheld under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see below for more information.
- b) N/A
- c) N/A
- d) The LAN is supported in-house.

Contacts

- a) This information is withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see below for more information.
- b) This information is withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see below for more information.
- c) This information is withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see below for more information.

Staff

- a) The approximate number of users is 1,000.
- b) This information is withheld under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see below for more information.

Some information has been withheld under **Section 31** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The exemption in section 31 (1) (a) is designed to cover all aspects of the prevention and detection of crime.

Section 31 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency and we recognise that releasing this information would provide the public with assurance that we are protecting our IT infrastructure. However, disclosure of the information requested could aid a criminal who was intent on launching an attack on the Department's ICT systems and could expose FCO Services to potential threats such as targeted e-crime and expose FCO Services to potential threats of a criminal nature.

For the reasons set out above, we have assessed that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act relates to personal information. The information you have requested is personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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If you would like a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

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,

FOI Officer

FCO Services



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.