



Defence Business Services
Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2023/07022

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

24 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 June 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about temporary working overseas concessions. Please accept my apologies for the length of time that it has taken to gather this information.

You requested the following information:

“Following the response at FOI2023/04662, I am intrigued to know what the number is across the MOD.

Excluding DE&S/SDA and other “trading entities / Arms length bodies” (such as DSTL, UKHO etc) please can you advise how many MOD civil service staff are working remotely overseas as approved by the MOD form “temporary working overseas concessions - request”.

Like the previous FOI, please also provide:

Country location

Grade

Duration

Area within MOD (for example, Air Command, Army Command etc).

If that’s not possible, a combined number at each country would be suitable.

If this would fall under Section 12, please advise how many areas could be completed with the cost limit if sticking to areas as noted on the MOD organogram salary chart on gov.uk (a breakdown of each area would be helpful to help me refine...ie: Air Command 4hrs, Army command: 20hrs etc):

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mod-organograms-staff-roles-and-salaries>”

In your further email of 29 June 2023, you added:

“I am asking these questions at an MOD level, rather than a DE&S/SDA specific level (which happens to fall under the same process which is managed by CivHR).”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm all information in scope of your request is held.

Employees are not normally allowed to work remotely overseas, unless they have been exceptionally approved to internationally remote work in their UK based role on the basis of an approved temporary concession, of which there are two types:

- 1) The requesting employee is an accompanying spouse/civil partner/unmarried cohabiting partner of a MOD employee or member of the Armed Forces (AF) who has been formally posted overseas, and they wish to continue working overseas in their existing UK based role. Allowing this for partners of AF personnel supports our commitment to the AF Covenant. This arrangement applies for the duration of the employee's partner's overseas tenure.
Or
- 2) The request is to temporarily work overseas for exceptional personal/domestic reasons (for a maximum of 2 months), which are:
 - a) Attending a close family member's funeral
 - b) Receiving urgent and serious medical attention
 - c) Accompanying a family member requiring urgent and serious medical attention
 - d) Complying with urgent legal responsibilities overseas
 - e) Supporting a relative overseas who needs other urgent and immediate help
 - f) There are no family members geographically nearer to the relative.

Annex A provides figures on both Temporary Concessions as at 12 July 2023.

Finally, in order to protect personal information governed by the Data Protection Act 2018, Section 40(2) of the FOI Act has been applied to some of the information by supplementing numbers less than 5 with a tilde (~), a full stop ('.') indicating a zero/null value. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Defence Business Services Secretariat

TLB	Country	Grade *	Duration	Temporary Concession Type		Total
				Accompanying Spouse/ Partner **	Personal/ Domestic Reasons	
AIR	Cyprus	N/K	36 months	Y		~
AIR	Cyprus	AO	21 months	Y		~
AIR	Cyprus	AO	48 months	Y		~
AIR	Belgium	HEO	36 months	Y		~
DBS	There are no DBS staff currently working overseas under either Concession					.
DO	Cyprus	SEO	36 months	Y		~
DNO	There are no DNO staff currently working overseas under either Concession					.
HO	Germany	G7	Duration of partner's posting	Y		~
HO	Germany	SEO	Duration of partner's posting	Y		~
HO	Germany	SEO	Duration of partner's posting	Y		~
HO	Belgium	G6	Duration of partner's posting	Y		~
HO	France	SCS	Duration of partner's posting	***		~
HO	Kenya	G6	Duration of partner's posting	Y		~
HO	Ireland	HEO	Duration of partner's posting	***		~

LAND	Poland	EO	Until 13 January 2025	1		~
MDP	There are no MDP staff currently working overseas under either Concession					.
NAVY	Netherlands	AO	Until September 2023	Y		~
SDA	There are no SDA staff currently working overseas under either Concession					.
STRATEGIC COMMAND	Cyprus	EO	Until 31 March 2025	Y		~
STRATEGIC COMMAND	USA	G6	3 years	Y		~
STRATEGIC COMMAND	Belgium	G7	10 months	Y		~
STRATEGIC COMMAND	Germany	HEO	11 months	Y		~
STRATEGIC COMMAND	Saudi	SEO	2-3 years	Y		~

* Grade information has been taken from the Department's Global Address List

** Timescales are determined by the posting duration of the partner posted overseas

*** Domiciled overseas but hybrid working (to a minimal extent)