



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Information Rights Team
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London
SW1A 2PA

Email: DP-FOI.IMG@fco.gov.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0977-12

Thank you for your email of 24 September requesting the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act:

“How much money has the FCO spent on champagne since the general election in 2010? Could this be broken down into number of items and pricing costs?”

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provisions for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ days working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Your request as presently formulated is widely-framed and will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. The information you have requested is not centrally held and would require contacting around 260 of our posts overseas and a large number of home departments. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request. You may therefore wish to refine your request to a specific post or a department.

However, you should be aware that this does not guarantee your refined request will be within the appropriate limit (this would depend on how the information is stored, if held) or that the information will be automatically released. Any reformulated request will be treated as a new request under the Act.

However, if you would like a review of our decision, please e-mail the Information Rights Team at: dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to request a review from the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have 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,

Information Rights Team



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.