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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

29 May 2009

Reference: **FOI 341-09**

Dr Kaihsu Tai

By email: request-11060-f4db28d4@whatdotheyknow.com

Room 2/131
Human Resources Directorate
Old Admiralty Building
London SW1A 2AP

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E-mail: jane.sigsworth@fco.gov.uk

Dear Dr Tai,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: 341-09

Thank you for your request dated 27 April 2009, under the Freedom of Information Act. You asked that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) should disclose a list of names of current British cultural attachés by host country (country of deployment), and the details about their religion and ethnicity (by census categories) if available. You clarified in an email on 14 May that you wished to know about all people working in the FCO on cultural relations.

I'm afraid it is not possible for us to answer your request. Our central management information system does not recognise the term 'cultural attache'. Therefore, I would need to approach all of our Embassies/High Commissions (there are over 200 of them) to provide you with an accurate figure for people working on cultural issues. I estimate that to locate, retrieve and extract such information would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 or 3.5 days. This limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. S.12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. I will not, therefore, be processing your request further. If you were able to refine your request to only cover people working on cultural relations in a particular part of the world then I may be able to help further, but I cannot guarantee this would be the case.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt.



If you are unhappy with the way the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. You should contact me within 40 working days at the address above (jane.sigsworth@fco.gov.uk) if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours

Jane

Jane Sigsworth
Open Government Liaison Officer
Human Resources Directorate