



GOVERNMENT HOSPITALITY

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Our ref: FOI 0046-10

12<sup>th</sup> February 2010

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Dear Mr Manderson,

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act, which I received on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010. I am sorry that there has been a slight delay in replying. In your letter you requested information on:

- *what the average cost of the purchase of one bottle of wine [was] between June 2008 and May 2009;*
- *what percentage of bottles of wine [bought] were white and what percentage red;*
- *what percentage of bottles of wine came from North America, Chile and Europe.*

I can confirm that Government Hospitality does hold the information you are requesting. Your request has been forwarded to me as Head of Government Hospitality, the department within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsible for the administration of the GH wine cellar.

The average cost of a bottle of wine bought during the Financial Year 2008/09 (the latest full year for which data is available) was £18.69. The increase in average cost on the 07/08 figures you hold reflects additional purchases of champagnes and new 2005 red Bordeaux in 2008/09. These purchases followed the advice of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine to Government Hospitality to take advantage of the favourable market conditions for these wines.

71% of the wines bought were white wines and 29% of the wines bought were red.

Of those wines purchased, 89% were from Europe (including the UK), and 11% were from Chile. No wines from North America were purchased during the period in question.

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If you are not content with the outcome 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 Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Alexander

Robert M O'D Alexander OBE  
Head of Government Hospitality  
Protocol Directorate

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