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Our refs: IRU/8/250 & 251
Email/8960/2008 & Email/8959/2008

5th June 2008

Dear Mr. McCullough,

Thank you for your narrowed enquiries dated 7th May 2008 for information under the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act 2000, following our previous reply.

You have asked about the UK's annual contribution towards the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Security Council.

I regret to inform you that the Treasury does not hold this information. As indicated in our previous reply, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) leads on the UK's institutional engagement with the UN's principal organs, including the UN Secretariat and Security Council.

To be helpful, I can relay some information provided by the FCO, as follows:

- The FCO meets the cost of the UK's contribution to the UN Regular Budget, the core budget for the UN Secretariat, the UN's principal organs (including the Security Council) and their subsidiary bodies. The Budget is agreed for a two calendar-year period, and the UK currently pays 6.642% of the total. For 2008 the UK share is £61.4million.
- Security Council-mandated Special Political Mission activities are funded from the UN Regular Budget. UN Peacekeeping Operations have separate budgets and Member States contribute to the cost according to a separate scale of assessments.
- The World Health Organisation is a Specialised Agency of the United Nations. The Department of Health meets the cost of the annual assessed contribution to the WHO budget. Other Government Departments and agencies contribute funds to the programme activities of the organisation.

The FCO Departmental Report (2007/8) includes an overview of the UK's financial contributions to the United Nations system for calendar year 2007. The information is contained in Table 14, which can be found in Part 3 ("Financing our work and PSA performance assessment") of the report.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/departmental-report/>

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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Treasury's Correspondence and Enquiry Unit (CEU) at public.enquirixx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx. It would be helpful to us, if you could remember to quote the IRU reference number given in the header to this letter in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Balvinder Chowdhary

Information Rights Unit
On behalf of HM Treasury

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