



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Foreign Secretary's Office
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

Vicky Cann
request-409380-b1bfba16@whatdotheyknow.com

15 June 2017

Dear Ms Cann,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0520-17

Thank you for your email of 30 May asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

"I would like to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, a list of dinner guests hosted by the Foreign Secretary and any other minister at the FCO, since 13 July 2016, at official FCO buildings, excluding Chevening. The list should exclude family members and include the names of those individuals attending the dinners, and any organisation that they represent, and the date, and the topics of the dinner."

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) may hold information relevant to your request.

Section 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. 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 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 I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request.

You may therefore wish to refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit. This may include reducing the breadth of the request to a particular minister and/or focusing your request to a shorter period (e.g. a three month period).

I hope you are satisfied with this reply. However, if you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our response, please write to the FOI and DPA Team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room K4.04, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to do so from the date this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the above, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of our response. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only carry out a review once you have exhausted the internal FCO complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

You can find responses to other FOI requests on the FCO's [website](#).

Yours sincerely,

Foreign Secretary's Office



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.