



# HM TREASURY

1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

3 September 2010

Suman Nambiar  
address details

Information Rights Unit

email to:  
request-43700-  
dd0a6288@whatdotheyknow.com

Tel: 0207 270 4558

Fax: 0207 270 4861

[www.hmtreasury.gov.uk](http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk)  
[FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk)

Ref: 10/730

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: The Costs of Pope Benedict XVI visit to the UK

Thank you for your enquiry dated 5 August 2010. I am treating your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for information on the costs of the forthcoming visit by Pope Benedict XVI that will be borne by the British Government. Specifically –

- The total costs being borne by the UK taxpayer, i.e. by the UK government.
- The departmental budgets (i.e. Foreign Office budget, Home Office budget etc) which will be contributing to these costs and the proportion or amounts of these contributions.

The final cost to the UK taxpayer of the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK is not yet known. Policing and security costs will depend on the exact circumstances at the time of the visit, and some costs will be determined by the size of the public presence at the events during the course of the visit.

However the government has agreed the means for meeting these costs, which is relevant to the second part of your request.

All police costs will be met from within existing police budgets. All costs for devolved policy issues arising in Scotland will be met from within the existing settlement for Scotland. HM Treasury holds no information on the apportionment of these costs.

A budget of up to £10m has been set for other costs of the visit (including in-venue security). This budget is being managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on behalf of a number of contributing departments.

In addition to the costs of organising and administering a successful visit, the first £0.75m of these costs will be met from the FCO's 2010/11 budget. The following departments, whose policy responsibilities are aligned with the Government's objectives for the Pope's visit, are also making equal contributions to these costs from their 2010/11 budgets:

Department for International Development  
Department for Education  
Department for Energy and Climate Change

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Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs  
Communities and Local Government.

The total potential contributions from each of these departments is therefore limited to £1.85m.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. It will be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.



Wendy Rendall  
Information Rights Unit  
HM Treasury

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email [FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gov.uk)

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

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 Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

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