



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Human Resources**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

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

Mr Charles Ghose

request-666090-24281835@whatdotheyknow.com

19th August 2020

Dear Mr Charles Ghose

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI2020/15098**

Thank you for your email of 19<sup>th</sup> May asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

1. *How many British honorary Consuls are there in the world?*
2. *In which countries are there British honorary consuls?*
3. *Which countries have a honorary consuls in the U.K?*
4. *Which countries do not have a British Mission, Consulate, High Commission, Embassy, or honorary consul?*
5. *Which countries do not have any Mission, Consulate, High Commission, Embassy, or honorary consul? in the U.K?*
6. *Which country has the smallest British Mission, Consulate, High Commission, Embassy, or honorary consul?*
7. *Which country has the largest British Mission, Consulate, High Commission, Embassy, or honorary consul?*
8. *Which country has the smallest Mission, Consulate, High Commission, Embassy, or honorary consul? in the U.K?*
9. *Which country has the largest Mission, Consulate, High Commission, Embassy, or honorary consul? in the U.K?*

*10. Which country was the first to have an Embassy in the U.K?*

On 20<sup>th</sup> July you wrote to us for an update on the reply. On 22<sup>nd</sup> July we apologised for not acknowledging your original request and asked you for further clarification on Qs 6, 7, 8 and 9. We asked you to clarify if you were requesting the total number of staff. You replied on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

*'I can confirm that the total number of employees is that my questions relate to.'*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does hold information falling within the terms of your request.

The FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days, and a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case. We do, of course, aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including in cases where we need to consider where the public interest lies in respect of a request for exempt information. In this case, however, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies.

In your case we estimate that it will take an additional 20 days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by **17<sup>th</sup> September 2020**. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The specific exemption which applies in relation to your request is: section 38 – health and safety.

Please contact us at [foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk](mailto:foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk) if you have any queries about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Central FoI Unit

