



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Parliamentary, Ministerial & Central Services
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH
Email: foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

08 March 2018

Dave Covey

By email: request-467214-31977e96@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr. Covey,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0209-18

Thank you for your email of 25 February 2018 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“Please confirm how many people have been formally appointed as Honorary Consuls, Consular Agents, Consular Correspondents or Wardens since 12 March 2004. Please also confirm how many have retired with 10 or more years of service in any of those roles since that date and how many were formally recognised via the Honours and Awards system during or shortly after their last year of service or for any earlier activity while serving.”

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

There are currently 211 Honorary Consuls within our overseas network.

However, our reporting does not record separately how many people have been appointed as Honorary Consuls, Consular Agents, Consular Correspondents or Wardens since 12 March 2004. Furthermore, we do not record separately those who retired with 10 or more years of service or awards received. To provide this information would require a check of paper and electronic files at each individual post.

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 hold the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. We estimate that it would take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract the information concerned. In these circumstances, we are not obliged under the FOIA to comply with this part of your request. You may therefore wish to

refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit, for example, you could consider one particular country only.

Please note that any new request will be given a separate reference number and we will then consider whether we could provide the information within the appropriate cost limit. This would of course be subject to the consideration of whether any of the other exemptions under the FOI Act apply.

If you would like to request a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the FOI and DPA Team at:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Room K4.04
King Charles Street
London. SW1A 2AH

By e-mail: foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk

Please note that you have 40 working days from the date of this letter in which to submit a request for an internal review.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire. SK9 5AF

You can also find out more about previous FOI replies published on our website at [Publications - Inside Government - GOV.UK](#).

Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer

Central FOI & DPA Team
PMCS
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

