



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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

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

John Roberts

By email: request-384146-a39f8481@whatdotheyknow.com

22 February 2017

Dear John Roberts

Your Freedom Of Information Request: 0094-17

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 24 January 2017. In your request you asked:

on 6 February 2012, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Henry Bellingham MP responded to Commons' Written Question 93572 of Stephen Barclay MP on "Diplomatic Service: Languages" (HC Deb, 6 February 2012, c49W).

In his answer, Mr Bellingham provided a table which listed the FCO staff (by country, post or office) in receipt of additional remuneration as a result of holding (a) CEFR level C2 (FCO Extensive), (b) CEFR level C1 (FCO Operational) and (c) CEFR Level A2 (FCO Confidence) language qualifications.

I'd be most grateful if you could send me an updated version of that table. Ideally, I would like to receive data per 1 January 2017 (or later if fully up to date data can be easily extracted from your systems), alternatively please provide me with the most recent data available.

I will leave it to you whether to split the table by country, by FCO post or similarly, but I'd be grateful if the level of detail could approximately match (or exceed) the level of detail in the table provided on 6 February 2012.

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

22 March 2017. 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 24 – National Security.

If you are unhappy with the service you are receiving and wish to make a complaint, please write to the FOI and DPA Team, 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 of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have 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.

Please contact me if you have any queries about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Human Resources Directorate



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.