



## Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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John Roberts

By email: [request-384146-a39f8481@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-384146-a39f8481@whatdotheyknow.com)

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

30 March 2017

Dear John Roberts

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0094-17**

Thank you for your email of 24 January 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. 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 am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request asking for updated information on FCO officers in receipt of additional remuneration as a result of holding language qualifications. You provided a table

you had received previously from the then FCO Minister Henry Bellingham, which listed this information broken down by country.

Language skills remain a priority for the FCO. The ability to communicate with others in their own language is vital to the FCO's delivery of the Government's foreign policy priorities and enables diplomats to connect and do business around the world.

The attached table provides you with an updated list as of end of December 2016. It details the number of officers who have a valid exam pass at C1 Operational and C2 Extensive levels and therefore were eligible for a lump sum language allowance payment.

You will note that there is no information for A2 (Confidence) level. This category was discontinued in September 2013, when all speaker slots across the network were reclassified as a minimum C1 Operational level (equivalent to degree level).

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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 decision, 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](mailto: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.

Yours sincerely,

Human Resources Directorate



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	Operational	Extensive
Algeria	3	1
Angola	1	
Argentina	5	2
Armenia	1	
Austria	4	2
Azerbaijan	1	
Belgium	16	
Bolivia	1	
Bosnia and Herzagovina	3	
Brazil	11	5
Cameroon	2	
Canada	1	1
Chile	3	
China	23	3
Colombia	8	
Costa Rica	1	
Croatia	1	
Cuba	1	
Cyprus	1	1
Czech Rep	1	
Denmark	2	
Dominican rep	3	
DRC	2	1
Ecuador	2	1
Egypt	3	
El Salvador	1	
France	14	3
Georgia	1	
Germany	14	8
Greece	3	1
Guatemala	3	
Guinea	1	
Indonesia	7	
Iraq	3	
Israel	4	
Italy	4	
Ivory Coast	1	
Japan	9	3
Jordan	4	
Kazakhstan	1	
Kosovo	3	
Kuwait	2	
Lebanon	2	

Lithuania	1	
Macedonia	1	
Madagascar	1	
Mexico	6	1
Montenegro	2	
Morocco	5	
Mozambique	1	
Netherlands	2	
North Korea	1	
Oman	1	
Pakistan	1	
Panama	2	
Paraguay	1	
Peru	2	1
Poland	3	
Portugal	3	
Romania	2	2
Russia	8	1
Rwanda	2	
Saudi Arabia	2	1
Senegal	1	1
Serbia	4	1
South Korea	1	
Spain	6	2
Sudan	3	
Sweden	1	
Switzerland	3	
Taiwan	2	
Tunisia	2	1
Turkey	9	
UAE	1	
Ukraine	2	
Uruguay	1	
USA	1	
Uzbekistan	1	
Vatican City	1	
Venezuela	3	
Vietnam	2	