



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Knowledge Management Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Iain Overton

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

request-375228-58d38b01@whatdotheyknow.com

05 January 2017

Dear Iain Overton,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1136-16

Thank you for your email of 4 December 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please can you tell me for two 5 month periods (23 Jan 2015 - 22 June 2016 and 23 June 2016 - 22 Nov 2016):

- 1. How many Freedom of Information requests your department recieved.*
- 2. How many of these FOI requests were responded to with a formed answer (this does not includ confirmation of receipt answers).*
- 3. How many of these answered FOI responses gave details as requested.*
- 4. How many of these answered FOI responses were refused (for whatever reason - cost, outside the scope of FOI etc. etc.)*

If, give the time constraints of FOI you still have time left on the clock, so to speak, can I also ask if you have recieved any internal messaging relating to anything that might be considered a 'go slow' approach to FOIs, or any other memos that would suggest that there has been orders not to answer questions relating to Brexit issues.

Thank you very much for this. Please treat the main 4 questions as the priority in this request.

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.

The information on the number of FOIs received in the first three reporting periods for 2016, including the figures for requests both answered in full and refused, is exempt under section 21 of the FOIA (information accessible by other means). This information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-foi-statistics>

Information on the number of requests received in the last quarter of 2016 (1 October – 31 December 2016), including the figures for requests both answered in full and refused, is exempt under section 22 of the FOIA (information intended for future publication). This information will be published in due course at the link provided above.

Section 22 of the FOIA is a qualified exemption which is subject to the public interest test and I have therefore considered the public interest in releasing the information you have requested prior to its publication.

There is public interest in the awareness of the number of FOI requests received by government departments. However, as we already have a long-standing system of publishing these figures, I consider that the public interest is already served through our publication scheme.

We do not hold any information relevant to the fifth part of your request.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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. 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,

Knowledge Management Department



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.