



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Knowledge and Technology Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

K Smith

request-536199-46ee3b39@whatdotheyknow.com

02 January 2019

Dear K Smith

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 1298-18

Thank you for your email of 30th November 2018 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please find below an FOI request on IT and Cyber Security Teams - Permanent Staff vs. Contractors.

1.How many people are currently employed (either permanently or on a contract basis) in the

a) IT team

b) Cyber Security team

2.How many open job vacancies do you have currently in the a) IT Team and b) Cyber Security?

3.Based on job appointments in the last 12 months in the IT and Cyber Security teams, on average, how long have these jobs been open before finding a candidate?

4.How many permanent job vacancies in a) IT and b) IT security were not filled this year?

5.In your cyber security team, what percentage do you have of permanent versus contract staff?

6.What is the average daily rate for security contractors for those currently employed in cyber security in your organisation?

7.What is the average salary for perm staff for those currently employed in cyber security in your organisation?

You later confirmed on 03 December that you were content to refine your request to the UK only due to the wide FCO network.

I can confirm that the FCO does hold information relevant to your request.

We have determined that your request is too large and complex as cyber-security capability is a collaborative effort across government with shared resources being deployed to protect the network. The FCO contracts out its IT service management function, which includes an IT security capability and with contracted companies we normally pay for a service so a head count is not normally a measure we use.

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 holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Your request as presently formulated is widely framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request. You may therefore wish to refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit. We would suggest that you refine the request to seek information about a specific IT team and drop the question about the average salary of staff as this on its own may result in a section 12 answer.

Please note that any new request will be given a separate reference number and we will then consider whether we can provide the information requested 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 Central FOI Unit at Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH, or by e-mail to foi-dpa.pmcs@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.

Yours sincerely,

Knowledge and Technology Directorate



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