



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Central FOI Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

Joseph McGlone
request-610143-157ff980@whatdotheyknow.com

02 December 2019

Dear Joseph McGlone,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1027-19

Thank you for your email of 08 October 2019 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a data set of the number of diplomats residence in the United Kingdom sorted by the sending nation?”

And:

“Does the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have a data set of the number of diplomats resident in another nation as the receiving nation?”

Both parts of your request relate to numbers of ‘diplomats’. Despite a request for clarification, we are not sure whether you mean:

- ‘Diplomats’ as in those who are notified or appointed to a receiving state under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) and who therefore may hold diplomatic immunity;
- ‘Diplomats’ as in members of the broader ‘diplomatic community’ which includes diplomatic staff, consular staff, staff of international organisations, and others working in a receiving state;
- ‘Diplomats’ in a broad sense of the word.

In the absence of clarity on this point, we have sought to provide you with a range of information that we hold centrally, as follows, relating to individuals who have been notified or appointed under the VCDR, as defined in the first tier above.

The London Diplomatic List (LDL), which is published on gov.uk (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-embassies-in-the-uk>) lists diplomatic agents based at missions in London. As you will see, this list includes various members of

the diplomatic community in London, including diplomatic and consular staff; it does not however include junior staff.

Note that (as at 14/03/2019) there are approximately 12,300 members of the foreign diplomatic community in the UK who have been notified or appointed under the VCDR. This figure comprises individuals appointed to Embassies and High Commissions and their dependent family members accepted by the FCO as such.

The FCO also maintains a database which contains the details of those who enjoy some form of immunity in the UK.

In answer to the second part of your request, please find attached an attached PDF outlining geographic breakdown of the FCO UK based staff serving in posts overseas as at 31st March 2019. This covers individuals who form part of the diplomatic community abroad, including for example diplomatic and consular staff; it does not include staff who are locally-engaged. (The number of diplomats has been released in job grades rather than absolute values, in line with current publication policies for FCO headcount.)

We hope that this is sufficient to meet your request but please clarify further if not, noting the summary definitions above, as well as the information already available in the public domain.

If you would like a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

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,

Central FOI Unit



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