

PRESS LINE

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON OUTSTANDING NNDR

- The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) of HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for billing and collection of those National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) which apply to services from which the missions benefit – i.e. street cleaning, lighting, fire services, etc. Missions pay 6% of the total NNDR value.
- Each year the VOA notify the FCO of all outstanding payments. The FCO have made representations to all missions with outstanding NNDR payments.
- The total amount outstanding, as at 31 March 2007 is approximately £821,000, a reduction of around 3.8 % on the figures for 2005/2006. Nine countries owe over £10,000 and have not yet made any arrangements to clear their debts totalling £289,501.79.
- As a result of FCO representation, twelve other countries that owe over £10,000 have made arrangements with the VOA to clear their debts.
- Where necessary, the FCO will raise the matter again with individual missions (but it is not FCO policy to comment on the specific action we may take against a particular diplomatic mission or international organisation).

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