



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

18 August 2009.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your request for information under the above legislation, dated 21 July 2009.

In that request you asked for the following information:

I am looking to find out how much the FCO spent on translation and interpreting services in the last financial reporting period.

If possible please break this figure down into a monthly spend and separate the spend for translation and interpreting. Also if it is possible to indicate the 3 most frequently requested languages and the amount spent on those that would be good.

If this is not possible then a single figure for the year will suffice.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

In Financial Year 2008/09 the FCO in UK and it's Overseas Posts spent £119,000 on translation and interpreting services with our in_house provider, FCO Services: Translation & Interpreting. However, this figure does not comprise the FCO's total spend on translation and interpreting as the FCO uses Overseas Posts extensively for this purpose, and frequently outsources to private contractors, both in the UK and overseas.

Comprehensive information regarding FCO spend on translation and interpreting services with Overseas Posts and external contractors is not available centrally, and could, therefore, only be obtained at disproportionate cost. This is in full compliance with Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The three most frequently requested languages for translation and interpreting services are French, Arabic and Spanish.