



GOVERNMENT HOSPITALITY
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Our Ref: 1154-13

Dear

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2013 requesting information on the inventory of the Government Wine Cellar under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). In your email, you requested:

- (a) How many bottles of wine does the department currently have in stock?
- (b) What year and vintage are each of the bottles owned by the department?
- (c) When was each bottle bought or acquired by the department?
- (d) How many bottles (and which bottles) have been drunk or otherwise used in each of the past five years?
- (e) What other (non-wine) alcoholic products does the department have in stock?
- (f) How many units of each type of alcoholic beverage (bar wine) does it have?
- (g) When where these other (non-wine) alcoholic beverages acquired?
- (h) How many units of each non-wine alcoholic beverage have been drunk or otherwise Used in each of the past five years?

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. Under Section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. Some of the information relevant to your request can be found via the link here on the UK Parliament site:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/?search_term=Foreign+and+Commonwealth+Office&itemId=119273#toggle-235

(DEP2013-1212, of 11th July 2013)

- (a) The Annual Statement 2012/2013 in the above UK Parliament site contains details of the current wine stock;
- (b) Annex B (the wine stock list) in the UK Parliament site contains the year and vintage of the wines held;
- (c) Individual dates of acquisition of wines are not released as part of the information on the Wine Cellar stock list. However, Government Hospitality's policy is to acquire wines when young and relatively inexpensive, thus most of the wines listed would have been purchased

within two or three years of production (e.g. a 1989 red Bordeaux would have been purchased in 1991 or 1992). The only exceptions to this rule are those wines that are made to be drunk young (e.g. most English white wines) and those fortified wines and brandies, some of which are aged for many years before they go on sale (e.g. vintage cognacs). Government Hospitality also buys large quantities of beverage or reception wines on a rolling basis (i.e. two or three times a year) as these wines are not designed to keep indefinitely and are used in large quantities;

(d) Annex A (the wine consumption statement) in the UK Parliament site contains information on consumption from the Government Wine Cellar; there is no information for the previous years;

(e) a stock list of non-wine alcoholic products is contained in Annex B;

(f) Government Hospitality does not deal in units;

(g) see the explanation above regarding wine purchases. In addition, other items such as spirits (e.g. gin, vodka, etc) are purchased on an ad hoc basis, year by year, depending on consumption.

(h) consumption for non-wine beverages drunk or otherwise used in 2012-13 can be found in Annex A; no previous statistics are available.

For your information, I am attaching the Annual Statement for 2011/12, released in February 2013. A previous version of the stock report was released in 2011, when no annual statement was prepared, it is also in the public domain but I attach a copy for you.

Yours very truly

Government Hospitality