



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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24 February 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0072-15

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 which we received on 27 January. You asked:

- 1) Please provide the total cost of Boris Johnson's most recent visit to Northern Iraq/Kurdistan, as reported in the news links below?*
- 2) Please breakdown the costs by the amount spent on accommodation, travel, and on other expense?*
- 3) Please provide a list of all people that also attended the trip?*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

The Mayor of London visited Erbil in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq from 21-23 January. The visit came in response to a formal invitation from the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and was an excellent opportunity to strengthen further the links between the UK and the KRG and primarily to promote London as an investment destination for the Kurdistan Region, a rapidly growing regional economy.

Most costs of the visit were covered by the KRG (air travel, hospitality). The Mayor, two members of the Mayor of London's Office, and Nadhim Zahawi MP were brought under the FCO's duty of care whilst in country. This included staying in Consulate General accommodation and being looked after by the Consulate General's security team. Both accommodation and security costs for HMG's staff in Erbil are fixed, so the only additional costs for HMG were: breakfast, snacks, water and vehicle fuel. As the Mayor's visit contributed to the Consulate General's commercial objectives, the FCO covered these costs.

Therefore the costs covered from FCO funds for the trip as you requested are:

Accommodation: Nil

Travel in country: £10.59

Other Expenses (meals, telephone, tea and coffee): £136.83

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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Yours sincerely,

Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Department



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