



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Protocol Directorate**  
Lancaster House  
St James's  
London  
SW1A 1BB

[www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

04 January 2016

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – REQUEST REFERENCE: 0872-15**

Thank you for your e-mail of 6 September 2015 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I am sorry about the delay in replying to your enquiry. In your e-mail you requested:

*'I'd like to know how much the Foreign Office has spent on champagne and sparkling wine for the last five years for which figures are available'*

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

The only central records available relevant to your request cover expenditure on champagne or sparkling wines made by the UK contracted caterer to the FCO, ESS Compass.

We can confirm the following amounts have been spent on champagne and sparkling wine by ESS Compass (FCO UK estate contracted caterer) in the last 5 years by financial year (April to March):

Year	Spend (£)
2010/11	£1,705
2011/12	£2,027
2012/13	£1,124
2013/14	£2,271
2014/15	£1,950

In addition, Government Hospitality (part of Protocol Directorate of the FCO) procures new stock for the government wine cellar on an ad hoc basis. The GH wine cellar is self-financing and has been so since 2010. Net spending on champagne and sparkling wine during this period was therefore zero.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) in the

[FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

The copies of information being supplied to you continue to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCO will have been produced by government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives website.

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non-Crown Copyright) information.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Government Hospitality  
Protocol Directorate



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.