



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Legal Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

12 February 2016

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1104-15**

Thank you for your email of 16 November 2015 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*Please identify the number of occasions when proceedings were commenced in the High Court of Justice against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for each year between the period October 2010 to October 2015.*

*Can the Foreign and Commonwealth Office identify how many sets of proceedings identified in answer to the question above sought the remedy of judicial review?*

The figures given below provide an indication of the number of High Court and judicial review cases, which were commenced against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. These figures are drawn from management information held centrally in Government but they may not provide a definitive picture as not all the information is readily available.

Providing definitive figures would require a targeted search of a large number of paper files, which would exceed the cost threshold as set out in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 12 of the Act makes provisions for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2014. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £660. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ days working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information from the relevant files.

Nevertheless, we hope that the information provided here is helpful to you.

**Number of occasions when proceedings were commenced in the High Court of Justice against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

2010-11	6
2011-12	3
2012-13	3
2013-14	0
2014-15	5

**Within the number set out above, the amount of judicial review cases commenced against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

2010-11	4
2011-12	3
2012-13	3
2013-14	0
2014-15	4

FCO Legal Directorate has put in place a new electronic database that allows us to record and access digitally information on FCO litigation in the UK. This database will allow us to provide more accurate statistics on FCO litigation for years from 2015 onwards.

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.

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Yours sincerely,

Legal Directorate



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