



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Overseas Territories Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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30 October 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0863-15

Thank you for your email of 31 August 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please can you provide me with information regarding the following for the British Indian Ocean Territory Police:

- a) the number of staff employed by or seconded to the BIOT Police in each role.*
- b) Income & Expenditure account(s) for the last three financial years for the BIOT Police.*
- c) I have seen information on the internet referring to staff role within BIOT Police as ROPO1, ROPO2 etc. (ROPO1 seems to be the Chief of Police). Please provide a job description for each of these roles and the military rank/ civilian pay grade for each of the incumbent(s).*
- d) Crime statistics for the BIOT for each of the last three years.*

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

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information relevant to your request. Though senior BIOT Administration officials at the FCO in London do regularly receive information in respect of most areas of your request, in many cases it is not kept in London permanently but rather on Diego Garcia, given the operational nature of that data.

To answer your questions, with the information we hold:

- a) There are currently 10 ROPOs (Royal Overseas Police Officers) in the British Indian Ocean Territory.
- b) We hold limited, headline only information on BIOT police expenditure. From our ledger, in FY 12-13 expenditure was \$504.43 under "Police and Court Equipment"; in FY 13-14 expenditure was \$3,611.07 under "Police Expenditure"; and in FY 14-15 expenditure

was \$4,050.32 under "Police Expenditure". To note however, that this does not include e.g. staff costs, vehicle costs, infrastructure costs, nor does it include equipment ordered for the BIOT police from the BIOT Administration in London.

You may wish to ask the MOD for staff costs as they provide the personnel that carry out this task. The email address is CIO-FOI@mod.uk.

- c) The FCO holds the job description for ROPO1 – attached. The military ranks of the ROPOs are as follows:
- i. ROPO 1 is the Senior Police Officer and is responsible to the BIOT Commissioner, through the on island British Representative (BritRep) for the policing and enforcement of BIOT Law within the Territory. He is to be an experienced Royal Navy Police Master At Arms who has appropriate Special Investigation Branch (SIB) training and experience.
 - ii. ROPO 2 is the Assistant Senior Police Officer and is to be an experienced Royal Navy Police Senior Rate who has appropriate Special Investigation Branch (SIB) experience and CSI trained.
 - iii. The ROPO 3 through 10 requirements are as follows:
 - iv. ROPO 3. Royal Navy Police Senior Rate. SIB experience and CSI trained.
 - v. ROPO 4. Royal Navy Police Senior Rate.
 - vi. ROPO 5. Royal Military Police Corporal, female.
 - vii. ROPO 6. Royal Air Force Police Corporal, dog handler.
 - viii. ROPO 7. Royal Marines Police Corporal/Lance Corporal.
 - ix. ROPO 8. Royal Navy Police Leading Regulator, female.
 - x. ROPO 9. Royal Navy Police Leading Regulator.
 - xi. ROPO 10. Royal Marines Police Corporal/Lance Corporal.
- d) The only information the FCO holds on crime statistics is in the attached digest.

Some of the information you have requested, is personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

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Yours sincerely,

Assistant Administrator

British Indian Ocean Territory Administration

Overseas Territories Directorate



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