



**FCO SERVICES**

Part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

23 December 2014

**Network Services Group**  
**FCO Services,**  
HP15/234, Hanslope Park,  
Milton Keynes, MK19 7BH  
E: [www.fcoservices.gov.uk](http://www.fcoservices.gov.uk)

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 1108-14**

Thank you for your email of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. In your request you asked:

*I am writing to request information regarding the numbers of the Corps of Queen's Messengers, or the amount of people who own a Queen's Messenger passport. I am also writing to request the selection process for Queen's Messengers.*

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

**1. Information regarding the numbers of the Corps of Queen's Messengers, or the amount of people who own a Queen's Messenger passport.**

The Corps of the Queen's Messengers is under the administrative control of FCO Services, a Trading Fund of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Messengers are employed to carry classified material between the FCO (and other government departments) and overseas posts. 20 officers are employed as Queen's Messengers by FCO Services; 17 are employed on a full time basis, and 3 on a part-time basis.

**2. Information regarding the selection process for Queen's Messengers.**

FCO Services are committed to the Civil Service Commission's Recruitment Principles whereby vacancies are recruited through fair and open competition and appointments made on merit. We have a multi-assessment approach to selection, using a variety of assessment methods which enables an applicant to demonstrate their skills and gives the hiring manager a rounded picture of the individual's suitability for the role.. This will provide a consistent approach across all roles and grades whilst still ensuring that the recruitment is tailored to the individual roles needs. Jobs are advertised on the Civil Service Recruitment website: (<https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi>).

Further, for posts in the Diplomatic Service and Home Civil Service posts in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, individuals are only eligible if:

(a) they are a British citizen; and

(b) they have resided in the United Kingdom for at least two of the previous ten years immediately prior to their application, at least one year of which must have been a consecutive twelve-month period, unless they have served overseas with HM Forces or in some other official capacity as a representative of Her Majesty's Government, or have lived overseas as a result of their parents' or partner's government employment. A lack of

sufficient background information may preclude them from being granted security clearance. For more information please visit the following website:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/307927/Annex A Nationality Rules.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307927/Annex_A_Nationality_Rules.pdf)

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.

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,

FCO Services



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.