



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Knowledge and Technology Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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8th April 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0325-16

Thank you for your email of 17 March asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

... how much does a ministerial department for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spend in a year on media monitoring, including tools to third parties that provide monitoring services, online tools and subscriptions in the financial year in April 2014 to March 2015?

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

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

The FCO spent £325,201.56 on media monitoring during April 2014 to March 2015, identified as follows:

Factiva news aggregator: £31,672.44

Gorkana press cuttings and ad-hoc media monitoring services: £172,635.12

Hootsuite Media: £57,029

Kantar Media Monitoring Service: £41,665

Media Monitoring Unit Summaries Service: £16,200

RipJar: £6,000

BBC Monitoring provided news and information services to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office during the 2014/15 financial year. Since April 2013, BBC Monitoring has been funded from the licence fee. Details of the services provided to government are described in the BBC Monitoring Scheme which is available on the BBC Trust website and from the House of Commons Library.

This information relates to media monitoring tools and services that have been procured centrally on behalf of the wider FCO.

Our online media resources are available to all staff across our diplomatic network to help them maintain awareness of breaking news and public commentary on issues, whether in UK, international or foreign media.

The FCO has approximately 14,000 staff and almost 270 diplomatic posts worldwide. We have an interest in a vast number of international issues, including the provision of information and assistance to Britons abroad in consular crises, where often the media can give us critical information in fast-moving situations. The media can also be an important partner for us in helping to disseminate public information in times of crisis and to help us glean information from journalists on the ground. At all times, being aware of breaking news and media commentary is an important factor in effective diplomacy delivered in support of UK interests.

You can also find out more about previous FOI replies published on our website at [Publications - Inside Government - GOV.UK](#).

Yours sincerely,

Information Policy Manager
Knowledge Management Department



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