



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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

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

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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0970-16

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

*I would like to know:*

- *how many staff the FCO has recalled from overseas postings to work on negotiations for leaving the EU since June 23rd*
- *how many staff the FCO expects to have returned from overseas postings to work on negotiations for leaving the EU by the end of the fiscal year*
- *how many outside advisers and consultants the FCO has hired since June 23rd to work on Brexit negotiations*
- *how many outside advisers and consultants the FCO expects to have hired to work on Brexit negotiations by the end of the fiscal year*
- *the cost of hiring outside advisers and consultants to work on Brexit negotiations since June 23rd*
- *the anticipated cost of outside advisers and consultants to work on Brexit negotiations by the end of the fiscal year*

On 14 July 2016, the Prime Minister announced a number of government changes, including the creation of the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) and a Department for International Trade (DIT). These new departments have been set up with the responsibility for overseeing negotiations to leave the EU, and establishing the future relationship between the UK and the EU; and promoting British international trade and investment. The full statement can be found at the following address:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-07-18/HCWS94>

As the department with overall responsibility for foreign policy and maintaining the UK's diplomatic and bilateral relationships across the globe; the FCO is working closely with these

new departments to support the Government's priorities in securing the best possible outcome for the UK from negotiations.

Since the creation of the two departments, the FCO has seconded a total of 39 positions and 30 officials to DExEU. We have not externally recruited any additional staff to replace them because the work has transferred to DExEU. To date, we have not seconded any positions to DIT. We have not recalled any FCO staff from overseas postings, or hired any outside advisers or consultants to work on Brexit negotiations and currently have no plans to do so.

Yours sincerely,

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