



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Knowledge and Technology 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: 0349-17**

Thank you for your email of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I would like to receive details of any planning work that has been carried out to understand the possible impact of Brexit on internal IT systems operated by or behalf of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in the UK.*

*Planning work could include internal investigations, seeking advice from other government bodies, external consultancy, systems testing or development.*

*By 'impact' I mean modifications to existing IT systems, and/or development of new systems, required to enact any changes to government policy that might result from Britain's departure from the EU.*

*Please could you let me have:*

- 1. Details of any such planning work carried out during the financial year 2016-17, and which IT system(s) it relates to.*
- 2. Any advice the organisation has received, as a result of this planning work, about actions it may need to take to ensure its internal IT systems are ready for Brexit, including estimated costs if available*
- 3. An indication of whether the organisation has already undertaken these actions, is planning to undertake them, or is considering them pending further information.*

*I am happy to limit the scope of the above request to the Official FCO IT Platform, within the UK.*

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.

1. The FCO established an IT Programme in 2014 called Tech Overhaul (see information in public domain [SRO](#)). The Tech Overhaul programme is a large complex programme which will refresh most elements of the enterprise architecture and operated during the period stated including but not limited to: networking, server infrastructure, devices and services.
2. As part of the Tech Overhaul programme, the Authority has engaged a number of suppliers to furnish the ambition of the Tech Overhaul programme (see information in public domain [SIAM](#)) these suppliers provide specialist business consulting and technical consulting where required. Changes brought about by Brexit have been completed. This included provision of email services and collaboration services to enable the newly formed departments (Department for Exiting the European Union & Department of International Trade) to operate effectively. As these changes were made within an existing IT programme (as per our response to Q3) the specific cost of works associated with Brexit cannot be determined.
3. The changes necessary to support Brexit have been applied to the existing systems, these have been added to the scope of Tech Overhaul where they previously did not exist.

Yours sincerely,

Knowledge and Technology Directorate



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