



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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

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

21 March 2017

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0195-17**

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) the following, broken down into separate questions:

1. *What is the value of the Single Economy flights?*
2. *How many persons in a family unit would receive them?*
3. *What is the cost limit on international shipping of personal effects?*
4. *What is the annual allowance for a ambassador living overseas?*

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 on allowances and provisions for staff serving overseas.

Question 1:

Those posted overseas by the FCO are entitled to a travel allowance (Travel Package) to pay for their and their qualifying dependents travel to and from, and during a posting. The allowance is provided according to rates for a set number of journeys and with clear guidelines for use. The cost of specific flights chosen by officers will therefore vary depending on the destination, date and time of departure, airline, route, and other factors including exchange rates. We do not hold a central record of the specific costs for flights or travel for individual members of staff.

Question 2:

Qualifying dependents are the officer's spouse / established partner and their dependent children. All qualify for flights through the Travel Package.

Question 3:

The allowances for shipping personal effects are based initially on volumes with maximum limits imposed, including additions for qualifying dependants as above. The ceiling for costs will therefore vary depending on family circumstances, the amounts being transported, the method of transportation (by air or sea) and the destination of the freight.

Question 4:

There is no specific allowance which is paid only to an Ambassador or High Commissioner. Allowances also vary according to grade, family status and location.

Yours sincerely,

Human Resources Directorate



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.