Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Introduction

1. The Vote covers the cost of running the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; subscriptions to international organisations, peacekeeping, the FCO's subscription to the BBC World Service Monitoring Service and other FCO programmes and grants including gifts of equipment and services mainly in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the overseas territories; the Government's grant in aid to the BBC in respect of the World Service for broadcasting and the FCO's contribution towards the expenses of the British Council. The Vote also provides for the refund of certain UK taxes and duties paid by certain Foreign and Commonwealth governments and international organisations. A detailed breakdown of expenditure in Sections A to E is included in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Departmental Report (Cm 4209) Appendix A, table 32.

2. Contingent liabilities, where any costs arising would be met from the Vote are listed in Appendix I of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Departmental Report (Cm 4209).

3. Grants-in-aid and subscriptions to International Organisations are listed in Appendix A, Table 32 of Cm 4209.

4. A detailed analysis of the appropriations in aid on this Vote can be found in Appendix A, Table 35 of Cm 4209. Details of long term capital projects can be found in Appendix B, Table 36 of Cm 4209.

5. The provision sought for 1999–2000 is 1.6 per cent lower than the final net provision for 1998–99 of £1,163,309,000 and 0.005 per cent lower than the forecast outturn for that year of £1,149,960,000. A breakdown of the forecast outturn for 1998–99 by Section is given in Table 32, page 98 of Cm 4209.

6. Section A includes gross running costs provision of £551,941,000. Further details of the gross running costs limit are provided in Appendix A, Table 32 of Cm 4209.

7. Symbols are explained in the Introduction to this booklet.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Part I

£1,144,783,000

Amount required in the year ending 31 March 2000 for expenditure by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on its administration, on Wilton Park Executive Agency, on the Government Hospitality Fund and Lancaster House, on international organisations, peacekeeping, special payments and assistance, scholarships, overseas visitors, sundry other grants and services, the BBC World Service Monitoring Service and on grants in aid to the BBC World Service for broadcasting and to the British Council.

The **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** will account for this Vote.

	£
Net total	1,144,783,000
Allocated in the Vote on Account (HC 1134)†	492,826,000
Balance to complete	651,957,000

† In the Vote on Account, this Vote was entitled Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Overseas representation. This Vote also includes the services shown in the Vote on Account as Class VII, Vote 2 (other external relations), Class VII, Vote 3 (BBC World Service) and Class VII, Vote 4 (The British Council).

Part II Subhead detail

£'000

	Direct Expenditure			Grants and transfers						
	1: Running costs	2: Other current	3: Capital	4: Current	5: Capital	Gross total	Z: Appropriations in aid	**Net total**	Total net provision 1998-99	Net outturn 1997-98
Departmental expenditure in Departmental Expenditure Limits										
Central government's own expenditure										
★**A:** *Administration, international organisations, programmes and BBC Monitoring subscriptions* Ω										
	551,941	151,723	111,749	129,357	—	944,770	160,902	**783,868**	765,099	773,942
★**B:** *Peacekeeping*										
	—	—	—	22,903	—	22,903	3,000	**19,903**	74,769	45,830
★**C:** *BBC World Service Broadcasting grant in aid*										
	—	175,500	—	—	—	175,500	—	**175,500**	162,965	156,542
★**D:** *British Council grant in aid*										
	—	121,619	6,138	5,494	—	133,251	500	**132,751**	127,260	96,247
Other expenditure outside Departmental Expenditure Limits										
E: *Reimbursement of certain duties, taxes and licence fees*										
	—	—	—	32,761	—	32,761	—	**32,761**	33,216	31,361
Total	**551,941**	**448,842**	**117,887**	**190,515**	**—**	**1,309,185**	**164,402†**	**1,144,783**	**1,163,309**	**1,103,922**

† Amount that may be applied as appropriations in aid in addition to the net total, arising from: salary refunds of seconded diplomatic staff and locally engaged staff; the sale of information material overseas receipts, income from sub-letting and receipts from sales of surplus material and equipment; receipts at home and overseas from legalisation fees, telephone and postage recoveries, medical scheme recoveries, bank interest and other sundry receipts, repayment by locally engaged staff of loans for car purchase and medical and other assistance, receipts from Government Departments, receipts for visa, passport and other services provided at consular offices, receipts from the sale of land and buildings, receipts from the sale of official vehicles; Wilton Park executive agency receipts for related running costs from other customers and receipts from sales and rents, Government Hospitality Fund and Lancaster House receipts for related running costs from other customers, refunds of VAT, recoveries from the UN of certain troop costs, refunds from DFID of a share of certain subscriptions and scholarship costs, repayment of sums advanced to distressed British Nationals; repayments of defence assistance loans to Singapore and Malaysia.

Part III Extra receipts payable to the Consolidated Fund

In addition to appropriations in aid there are the following estimated receipts:

£'000

	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98
1. Administration, international organisations, programmes and BBC Monitoring subscriptions	2,400	4,000	2,597
2. Peacekeeping	1	1	1,613
3. British Council	1	1	—
BBC World Service	—	*18,208*	—
Total	**2,402**	**22,210**	**4,210**