

NGW FILE COVER

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Consular fees (Amendment) Bill

FOREIGN POLICY

Consular fees

July 1979

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>9.7.87</del>							
<del>16.7.87.</del>							
<del>22.7.87.</del>							
<del>26-1-89</del>							
31-1-89							
<p>PREM 19/2688</p>							

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

**Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents**

Reference	Date
OD (79) 20	10/7/1979

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate CAB (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed B. Walsh Date 9/8/16

PREM Records Team

Cc/c.

Papers removed from file

Date 31.1.89.

CST to FCS. 31.1.

FOREIGN POL: Consumer fees,  
July 79.

*ccpc.*



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1

*ccpc*  
*31/1*

31 January 1989

Dear Secretary of State,

**CONSULAR FEES**

*Acap*

I am pleased to say that I have no objection to the proposal in your minute of ~~26~~ January to the Chancellor for increases in a number of consular fees from 1 April 1989. I note that you expect that the increases will enable you to recover the full cost of fee-bearing consular services in 1989-90 in accordance with your value for money target. This is very satisfactory.

You mention that you will be studying the possibility of charging for the processing of passport applications abroad. I would be interested to see the outcome.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, John Wakeham, Douglas Hurd, Paul Channon, David Young, John Belstead and David Waddington.

Yours sincerely,

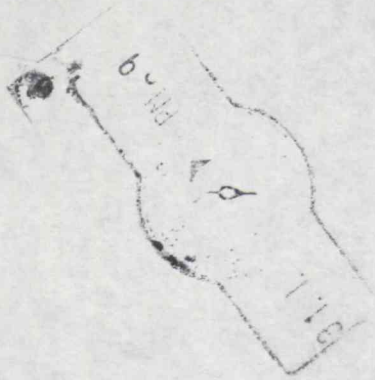
*P. Waulless*

PP JOHN MAJOR

[Approved by the Chief Secretary and signed in his absence.]

FOREIGN POL: Consumer Free

July



070  
FCS/89/015CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

cc/c

e DP  
24iConsular Fees

1. You will wish to know that we are proposing to increase a small number of consular fees. I attach a table showing the old fees and intended increases. In addition the fees for Shipping, Seamen and Kindred Matters (previously Fee Nos 44 - 73) have been rationalised and reduced from 29 to 10 in number.

2. Consular fees were last increased in September 1987 by an average of about 70%. It was agreed at that time that they should be reviewed annually. The new increases range from 12 - 60%. The increases reflect our intention of achieving the Value for Money target of eliminating by 1989/90 the deficit on fee bearing consular services. Without the increase we forecast a deficit for 1989/90 of about £600,000.

3. Visa fees are not being increased on this occasion, the last general increase in these fees having been made in June last year. Passport fees are the responsibility of the Home Office. However we are to conduct a feasibility study into the possibility of introducing, at a later date, an additional fee or fees as a consular service charge for the processing of passport applications abroad (well over 200,000 annually).

/4.



4. I hope the Order in Council embodying the new fees will be agreed at the next Privy Council meeting on 7 February. I should therefore be grateful to know by 30 January if you see any objection. It should be possible to complete other Parliamentary procedures to enable the implementation of the new fees by the beginning of the 1989/90 financial year ie 1 April 1989.

5. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Trade and Industry, the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
26 January 1989

1987 No. 1264

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

The Consular Fees Order 1987

*amended by the Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 1988 w.e.f 1.6.88.*

Made . . . . . 21st July 1987

*+ H.O. Amendment. (1<sup>st</sup>)*

Coming into force . . . . . 1st September 1987

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 21st day of July 1987

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred upon Her by section 1(1) of the Consular Fees Act 1980(a) or otherwise enabling Her in that behalf, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:

1. This Order shall come into force on 1st September 1987 and may be cited as the Consular Fees Order 1987.

2. In this Order—

- (a) "consular officer" means any person authorised by the Secretary of State to exercise consular functions, or functions in the United Kingdom which correspond with consular functions, (including persons who are not, as well as persons who are, consular officers);
- (b) "consular employee" means any person employed in the administrative or technical service of the consular post or diplomatic mission;
- (c) "consular premises" means the buildings or parts of buildings used for the purposes of the consular post or diplomatic mission;
- (d) "entry clearance" means a visa, entry certificate, entry permit or other document which, in accordance with the applicable immigration laws or rules, is to be taken as evidence of a person's eligibility for entry into the United Kingdom, a dependency of the United Kingdom, or any other country or territory, as the case may be (but does not include a work permit).

3. The several fees set forth in the table in the Schedule annexed to this Order are prescribed to be levied by consular officers and by marriage officers under the Foreign Marriage Act 1892(b) and the Marriage with Foreigners Act 1906(c) in the execution of their duties, and the said table shall be construed as part of this Order.

4. The following Orders are revoked:

The Consular Fees Order 1983(d)

The Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 1984(e)

(a) 1980 c. 23.  
(b) 1892 c. 23.  
(c) 1906 c. 40.  
(d) S.I. 1983/1518.  
(e) S.I. 1984/1155.



The Consular Fees (Amendment No. 2) Order 1984(a)  
 The Consular Fees (Amendment No. 3) Order 1984(b)  
 The Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 1985(c)  
 The Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 1986(d)

G.I. de Doney  
 Clerk of the Privy Council

SCHEDULE  
 TABLE OF CONSULAR FEES

PART I		PROPOSED NEW
NOTARIAL AND KINDRED MATTERS		FEE
Fee	£	
1	Preparing any certificate, declaration or document not otherwise provided for—	
	(a) in standard form, per copy.....	15.00
	(b) not in standard form, per 100 words:	
	(i) in English.....	15.00
	(ii) in any other other language .....	25.00
2	Preparing or signing, or both, a declaration of existence.....	15.00
	except in connection with pay or pensions payable by a department of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom or of any other Government within the Commonwealth	
3	(i) Attesting or legalising a signature or seal.....	5.00
	except where—	
	(a) the signature or seal is on a certificate or survey of foreign passenger ships running to or from the United Kingdom, or	
	(b) the signature or seal is on a document required for the deposit or withdrawal of money in or from any British Post Office or other Government Savings Bank, or	
	(c) the signature or seal is in connection with stocks or bonds on the registers of the Post Office, with Savings Bank Annuities or with annuities granted direct by the National Debt Commissioners	
	(ii) Administering an oath or receiving a declaration or affirmation.....	10.00
	except where—	
	(a) the oath, declaration or affirmation is made under the Merchant Shipping Acts or in connection with the loss of a passport, or	
	(b) fee 21, 26, 27, 29, 38 or 39 is to be taken	15.00
4	Supplying witnesses, for each witness.....	10.00
5	Initialling alterations in any document not prepared by the consular officer or marking exhibits, for each initialling or marking.....	1.00

(a) S.I. 1984/1819.  
 (b) S.I. 1984/1979.  
 (c) S.I. 1985/1984.  
 (d) S.I. 1986/1881.

<i>Fee</i>	<i>£</i>	
6 Making or verifying (including certifying where necessary) a copy of a document—		
(a) in typescript or made by photographic process outside the consular premises, for each page .....	15.00	
(b) by photographic process, if the copy is made in the consular premises, for each page (with a minimum charge of £10).....	1.00	
7 Uniting documents and sealing the fastening (except where fee 39 is applicable), or affixing a photograph to a document not prepared by the consular officer and if necessary certifying it (except where fee 19 is applicable) .....	5.00	7.50
8 Obtaining a legalisation or other certification from another authority upon any document .....	10.00	15.00
in addition to costs, if any		
9 Supplying certified copies of documents forming part of the records of a court which is, or was formerly, established under the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts 1890(a) and 1913(b)—		
for every page.....	5.00	
10 Making or verifying (including certifying where necessary) a translation in writing of a document or part of a document, for each 100 words or characters (or part thereof) in the foreign language—		
(a) from or into Amharic, Chinese, Japanese or Korean (three Japanese <i>Kana</i> being counted as one character when used independently) .....	25.00	
(b) from or into any other language .....	15.00	
except where fee 29 or 41 is to be taken		
11 Translating and interpreting <i>viva voce</i> (except when necessary for the performance of official duties)—		
for every 15 minutes .....	10.00	

## PART II

### PASSPORTS, VISAS AND KINDRED MATTERS

12 Issuing a passport of not more than 32 pages .....	15.00	
except where fee 15(a) is applicable		
13 Issuing a passport of 94 pages .....	30.00	
except where fee 15(b) is applicable		
14 Issuing a British Visitor's passport .....	7.50	
except where fee 15(c) is applicable		
15 Issuing a passport which includes the particulars of a spouse:		
(a) a passport of not more than 32 pages .....	22.50	
(b) a passport of 94 pages .....	45.00	
(c) a British Visitor's passport.....	11.25	
16 Issuing a collective passport.....	30.00	
17 Amending an existing passport by adding the particulars of a child or children	4.00	
18 Amending an existing passport by amending the holder's name at the request of the holder .....	3.00	
19 Amending an existing passport by adding a fresh photograph or amending the holder's description, except where the holder was under 16 years of age at the date of issue .....	3.00	

(a) 1890 c. 37.  
(b) 1913 c. 16.

Fee	£
19A Issuing an excursion document for travel to France .....	2.00
20 (a) Issuing: <i>Receiving an application for:</i>	
(i) entry clearance (other than for the United Kingdom or a dependency of the United Kingdom).....	10.00
(ii) entry clearance for a dependency of the United Kingdom when the application was referred to the dependency.....	5.00
in addition to Fee 22	
(b) Preparing or forwarding, or both, any letter, certificate, declaration or other document which may be required by an authority in any country or territory in connection with an application for or the issue or renewal of an entry clearance (for a country or territory for which the consular officer does not himself have authority to issue entry clearance), a residence permit, identity card or application for registration or naturalisation or forwarding any other certificate or document (except a Home Office travel document).....	5.00
21 Issuing and, where required, preparing an Emergency Passport or other document not otherwise provided for in lieu of a passport, or accepting a Declaration of Identity on which a visa is to be granted and issuing a certificate on such declaration describing the applicant .....	5.00
22. (a) Receiving an application outside the United Kingdom for an entry clearance, certificate of entitlement to the right of abode or a confirmation of the right of abode.....	60.00
unless	
(b) the applicant seeks entry clearance for employment or self-employment for a period of six months or less, or as a returning resident, visitor, student, passenger in transit, "au pair" or for a working holiday, in which case, the fee is-	
(i) for one entry .....	20.00
(ii) for two entries .....	30.00
or	
(iii) for multiple entries .....	44.00
or such sums, (being the equivalent of fees charged by the authorities of any State for receiving or granting an application for an entry clearance to a British citizen), as the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Treasury, directs to be taken for receiving or granting an application for an entry clearance from a national or citizen of that State.	
23 Renewing a Travel Certificate, a certificate of identity or other travel document on behalf of a Commonwealth country or of a dependency of a Commonwealth country.....	10.00
except where fee 25 is to be taken	
24 Renewing a Travel Certificate, a certificate of identity or other travel document on behalf of a dependency of the United Kingdom .....	10.00
except where fee 25 is to be taken	
25 Revalidating or renewing a Seaman's Certificate of Nationality and Identity or a Seaman's Identity Book .....	5.00
in addition to fee 20 where applicable	

### PART III

#### MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS

26 Receiving notice of an intended marriage.....	15.00	20.00
27 Solemnising or attending a marriage under the Foreign Marriage Acts 1892 to 1947(a), administering oaths to the parties and registering the marriage.....	40.00	
28 Issuing in English or in the local language a certificate that no impediment to an intended marriage has been shown to exist.....	15.00	20.00

Fee	£	
29 Transmitting a record of a marriage under the local law to the appropriate Registrar General in accordance with Article 7(1) of the Foreign Marriage Order 1970(a), including the provision of any necessary certification.....	20.00	25.00
30 Issuing a "certificate de coutume" for an intended marriage in accordance with the local law.....	15.00	20.00
31 Registering a birth or death.....	15.00	20.00
32 Making an addition to or correction in the consular register of births, deaths or marriages at the request of the parties concerned.....	15.00	20.00
33 Furnishing a certified copy of an entry in the consular register of births, deaths or marriages..... in addition to fee 34 where applicable	10.00	

PART IV

SEARCHES

34 Making a search in—		
(a) the consular registers of births, deaths or marriages where the number or date of entry is not provided.....	10.00	
(b) any other records or archives of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.....	15.00	
in addition to fee 33 where applicable		
35 Having a search made for, or obtaining copies of, or both, entries in the local registers or records not kept by a consular officer—		
for an entry in a local register of births, deaths or marriages.....	20.00	25.00
for any other document.....	20.00	25.00
in addition to costs exceeding <del>£1.00</del> £3.00		

PART V

ESTATES

36 Administering in full or in part, safeguarding, or arranging the transmission of all or part of the personal effects and other estate of a deceased person or proceeds thereof, excepting the wages and personal effects of a seaman and except where the gross current market value is less than £1000, on the amount of the gross current market value.....	2% rounded upwards to the nearest 10.00	
but with a fee, where a local lawyer is employed and the matters or things to be done by the consular officer are nominal, of.....	25.00	30.00

PART VI

ATTENDANCES

37 Attending (except in connection with commercial enquiries) for each hour or lesser period, including if appropriate the time taken in proceeding from a reasonable point of departure and in returning to a reasonable point—		
(a) at the consular premises during customary business hours for the purpose of supervising an examination.....	10.00	
except that where two or more persons are sitting examinations at the same time the fee may be apportioned between them		

<i>Fee</i>	<i>£</i>
(b) during customary business hours but elsewhere than at the consular premises.....	35.00
(c) outside customary business hours—	
at the consular premises or residence .....	40.00
elsewhere .....	65.00
with—	
(i) a maximum in any one period of 24 hours of.....	200.00
(ii) an increase of one-half where the consular officer is accompanied away from the consular premises by another consular officer or a consular employee with a maximum in this event of .....	300.00

### PART VII

#### MATTERS RELATING TO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

38 Presiding at the taking of evidence under a commission or order from a Court, including any matter or thing done by the consular officer as examiner—		
(a) for the first two hours or less on the first day .....	100.00	120.00
(b) for the first two hours or less on each subsequent day .....	65.00	85.00
(c) for each additional hour on any day .....	35.00	
39 Providing evidence of service or attempted service .....	25.00	30.00
in addition to fee 37 or 40		
40 Providing the services of a consular officer or consular employee—		
(a) to assist the consular officer in the taking of evidence under a commission or order from a Court, for each such person—		
for each sitting of two hours or less .....	25.00	
for each additional hour at each sitting .....	10.00	
(b) to effect or endeavour to effect service of a document, for each hour or shorter period elsewhere than at the consular premises—		
during customary business hours .....	25.00	30.00
outside customary business hours .....	40.00	45.00
41 Forwarding a request to a local authority for the taking of evidence or the service of a document and, where necessary, certifying the accuracy of a translation accompanying the document.....	25.00	30.00

### PART VIII

#### REPATRIATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

42. Arranging the repatriation of a person or a group of persons of the same family and travelling together.....	30.00
43. Arranging for currency to be made available against payment of a sterling cheque or against the deposit elsewhere of funds with or to the order of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.....	15.00
in addition to fee 37 where applicable	

PART IX

SHIPPING, SEAMEN AND KINDRED MATTERS

	Pre 1987	1987	1989 (proposed)
	£	£	£
44. Granting or considering whether to grant a provisional certificate of registry			
(a) where the owner is a private individual .....	44	70	(a) £100
(b) where the owner is a body corporate .....			(b) £230
45. Receiving a return of the birth or death of any person on board a ship and endorsing the agreement with the crew accordingly .....	4.50	10	15
46. Examining or arranging for the examinations of provisions or water, payable to the party who proves to be in default .... In addition to the cost, if any, of survey.	22	35	40
47. Noting a marine protest and furnishing one certified copy if required .....	16.50	25	30
for every further copy .....	8.00	15	15
48. Extending a marine protest, filing the original and furnishing one certified copy if required -			
for any number of words up to 200, excluding the declaratory clause ....	44	70	80
for every subsequent 100 words or less .....	8	15	15
In addition to fees 1 and 3 where applicable.			
49. Making a request, or issuing or arranging for the issue of any document, in connection with a survey of a ship			
(a) for the purposes of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS) or of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973 as modified by its Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL)	8	15	20

(b) for any other purpose .....	44	70	80
..... In addition to fee 6 where applicable.			
50. Issuing a bill of health .....	16.50	25	30
51. Preparing or signing, or both, any document, whether required by the Merchant Shipping Acts or by the local authorities, relating to the master or the members of the crew of a ship, to their numbers, names or other details, or to their engagement, discharge, desertion or death, except where fee 45 is taken, in addition to fee 37 ..... and except where a death inquiry is held under Section 61 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1970.			25*
52. Signing and, if required, sealing any document at the request of the master of the ship, except where this is required under the Merchant Shipping Acts, and except where fee 51 has been taken ...			25*
53. Inspecting			
(a) a ship's paper when required to enable a consular officer to do any matter or thing in respect of a ship, except where fee 51 has been taken, in addition to fee 37 .....	8.00	15	20
(b) the marking of a ship, irrespective of the number of visits, in addition to fee 37 .....	8.00	15	20

\* New composite fees

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This Order revokes and replaces the Consular Fees Order 1983 and subsequent amending Orders. It increases most of the consular fees by amounts that are intended to reflect, as far as possible, the cost of providing the services. The average increase is approximately 70%. It makes a few amendments to the services for which fees are charged. In particular, some changes have been made to fees 20 and 22 (entry clearance and other documents) and a change has been made to the way that fee 3 (oaths, affirmations, legalisation) is calculated.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 July 1987

Dear Charles,

*attach*

Consular Fees Increase

The Foreign Secretary copied to the Prime Minister his minute of 9 July to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about a forthcoming increase in certain consular fees.

The necessary Order in Council (The Consular Fees Order 1987) was made on 21 July. The Foreign Secretary thought that the Prime Minister would wish to be aware in advance of the terms in which the increases will be announced on 23 July to Parliament and to the Press. I therefore enclose a copy of the draft Inspired Question and Answer which will constitute the Parliamentary announcement, and of the draft Press Release which will issue from the Foreign Office soon after the Written Answer appears.

The Prime Minister may also like to have the enclosed copy of the defensive briefing which has been prepared for FCO Ministers.

I am copying this minute, with enclosures, for information to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Trade and Industry, the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip.

*Yours ever*

*R N Culshaw*

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/No 10 Downing Street

DRAFT INSPIRED PQ

(For Written Answer on Thursday, 23 July)

CONSULAR FEES INCREASE

Q. To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to increase fees for consular services.

A. (Mr Tim Eggar)

Yes. An Order in Council (The Consular Fees Order 1987) was made on 21 July 1987, the first opportunity following the new session of Parliament. It provides for increases in certain consular fees with effect from Tuesday, 1 September 1987. Passport and visa fees are not included in the increases. Subject to the effects of exchange rate movements and overseas inflation, the new fee levels should ~~reduce the~~ deficit on consular fee-bearing services to about £500,000 in 1988/89.

The increases will be the first since November 1983. Since then costs, particularly overseas, have increased substantially. It has been the policy of this and previous Governments that the cost of consular services should as far as possible be borne by the users.

## DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

(Embargoed until.....on 23 July)

## INCREASE IN CONSULAR FEES

The Consular Fees Order 1987 (Statutory Instrument No.       ) published today increases certain consular fees with effect from 1 September 1987.

Passport and visa fees are not included in the increases. Subject to the effects of exchange rate movements and overseas inflation, the new fee levels should reduce the deficit on consular fee-bearing services to about £500,000 in 1988/89.

The increases will be the first since November 1983. Since then costs, particularly overseas, have increased substantially. It has been the policy of this and previous Governments that the cost of consular services should as far as possible be borne by the users. This discourages abuse of the system and thus helps to ensure that our capacity to provide essential non-fee-bearing protection services (for which there is an ever-increasing demand) is not over-loaded by lower priority work.



## CONSULAR FEES INCREASE

### DEFENSIVE BRIEFING

1. Ministers may need to defend to Parliament and the public the increases in certain consular fees which, it is intended, will come into effect on 1 September 1987. Possible questions are listed below, together with suggested answers. A list of the increases in fees is at Annex A. Background to the suggested answers is in a separate note.

Q. WHY ARE INCREASES REQUIRED AND WHY BY 70%?

A. It is Government policy that the costs of providing fee-related consular services should be covered as far as possible by revenue from fees. The existing level of fees (set in November 1983) is no longer sufficient for revenue to cover increased costs, particularly overseas. The 70% increase will mean that the current deficit should be reduced to about £500,000 for 1988/89.

Q. HAVE ALL CONSULAR FEES BEEN RAISED?

A. No. Passport and visa fees are not included in the increases. The latter fees were last increased in November 1986, while passport fees are the responsibility of the Home Office. The fees for arranging a repatriation and advancing currency to a traveller remain at 1983 level.



**Q. WHY CANNOT CONSULAR SERVICES BE COVERED BY THE FEE CHARGED FOR PASSPORTS?**

A. Since 1978 the Government's objective has been to recover the full costs of the passport services and the consular services from the public, the latter either directly through consular fees or indirectly through passport fees. The passport fee is set at a level designed to cover the cost of passport services and of the protection aspects of consular work (which probably constitute about 80% of all consular work). It has long been considered fair to charge a fee for other consular services, particularly those of a non-protection nature such as notarial acts. This discourages abuse of the system and thus helps to ensure that our capacity to provide essential non-fee-bearing protection services (for which there is an ever-increasing demand) is not squeezed by lower priority work.

**Q. WHY ARE FEES NOT BEING INCREASED TO COVER FULL COSTS?**

A. 70% is a substantial increase and although at this stage we foresee a deficit of £500,000 in 1988/89 this will very much depend on the effects of exchange rate movements and overseas inflation on our overseas costs. The level of fees will henceforth be reviewed annually.



BACKGROUND NOTE

CONSULAR FEES INCREASE

1. Fees are at present well below costs. This is partly because they have not been increased for 4 years, but also because there was no strict requirement for full-cost recovery until 1984 when the Passport Office was transferred from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Home Office and agreement was reached with the Treasury and the Home Office that fee-bearing services should become completely self-financing. Hitherto they had been partly subsidised by passport revenue.

2. We had originally estimated that the new increases would make the service fully self-financing if introduced from April 1987. But with the delay in implementing the increases due to a number of factors and following our revised estimates of costs to take account of overseas price movements since our original calculation, we now estimate a deficit of about £500,000 in 1988/89. However, the eventual outcome will depend on what happens to the value of sterling and to overseas inflation rates over the next 2 years; and also on the effects of the fee increases on the level of demand.

FOR PA: Consola fees July 79.





CC7C

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
 Secretary of State for Foreign and  
 Commonwealth Affairs  
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
 King Charles Street  
 London  
 SW1A 2AH

CQR 16/7

16<sup>th</sup> July 1987

Dear Geoffrey,

#### CONSULAR FEES

Thank you for your minute of ~~9~~ July to Nigel Lawson, setting out your proposals for increases in consular fees.

It is disappointing that it has not proved possible to break even this year on these consular services as had been expected at one time. But I recognise that the increases you have proposed are substantial and I welcome the effect they will have in reducing the current deficit and taking us further towards full cost recovery. I trust that future upratings will continue to work towards that objective.

I note that visa fees are not being increased in this exercise, but it is still our understanding that they will need to be reviewed later this year, as agreed in last year's Survey, to ensure that the additional costs of the five new visa regimes for Africa and South East Asia will be covered in 1988-89. It will also be important not to pass up any opportunities to make inroads into the general deficit on the entry clearance services.

On this basis I am content with your proposal to put the consular fee increases to the Privy Council as soon as possible.

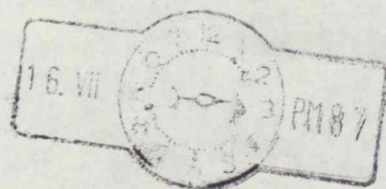
I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Douglas Hurd, Paul Channon, David Young, John Wakeham and David Waddington.

Yours faithfully,  
 John

JOHN MAJOR



FOREIGN POL: Consumer fees, July 79





cc PE

FCS/87/149

EDD  
2/7.

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

Consular Fees

1. You will wish to know that we are proposing to raise certain consular fees. I attach a table showing the old fees and intended increases. Some minor amendments to the wording of a few fees (mainly of a legalistic nature) will also be made.

2. Consular fees have traditionally been raised about every three years. The last increase took place in November 1983. The new scale will make a significant contribution towards our shared objective of making all consular fee-bearing services self-financing. On the assumption that the level of demand for these services remains unchanged, we estimate that the additional annual revenue resulting from the increase will be of the order of £900,000 (i.e. an increase of 50%). The average increase in fee levels is 70%.

3. Visa fees are not being increased on this occasion because they were substantially increased in November 1986. Passport fees are now the responsibility of the Home Office and are therefore also excluded. However, a recent survey of consular work abroad suggests that the

/level



level of non-fee-bearing consular work at posts has increased substantially in recent years and that passport fees may, therefore, no longer cover the full cost of this work as, by agreement, they should do. We have written to the Home Office about this so that they can take it into account in their next review of passport fees.

4. The timing for introduction of the new fees is tight. I hope we can catch the next Privy Council meeting on 21 July. This will require a submission to it by 15 July. It should still be possible to complete other Parliamentary procedures before the Summer Recess with a view to implementation on 1 September. Failing this, the matter will have to be held over until the autumn (with an implementation date of 1 December or later), with consequent loss of receipts amounting to approximately £75,000 per month or £225,000 over the 3-month period.

5. I am copying this minute for information to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Trade and Industry, the Lord Privy Seal, and the Chief Whip.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

SCHEDULE  
TABLE OF CONSULAR FEES

NEW FEE £		PART I NOTARIAL AND KINDRED MATTERS	OLD FEE £
	<i>Fee</i>		
	1	Preparing any certificate, declaration or document not otherwise provided for—	
15.00	(a)	in standard form, per copy . . . . .	9.00
	(b)	not in standard form, per 100 words:	
15.00	(i)	In English . . . . .	9.00
25.00	(ii)	in any other language . . . . .	13.50
15.00	2	Preparing or signing, or both, a declaration of existence . . . . . except in connection with pay or pensions payable by a department of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom or of any other Government within the Commonwealth	8.00
5.00	i)	Legalisation of a signature or seal	5.00
10.00	3 ii)	Administering an oath or receiving a declaration or affirmation of attesting or legalising a signature <del>XXXXX</del> . . . . . except where—	5.00
	(a)	the oath, declaration or affirmation is made under the Merchant Shipping Acts or in connection with the loss of a passport, or	
	(b)	fee 21, 26, 27, 29, 38 or 39 is to be taken, or	
	(c)	the signature or seal is on a certificate or survey of foreign passenger ships running to or from the United Kingdom, or	
	(d)	the signature or seal is on a document required for the deposit or withdrawal of money in or from any British Post Office or other Government Savings Bank, or	
	(e)	the signature or seal is in connection with stocks or bonds on the registers of the Post Office, with Savings Bank Annuities or with annuities granted direct by the National Debt Commissioners	
10.00	4	Supplying witnesses, for each witness . . . . .	4.50
1.00	5	Initialling alterations in any document not prepared by the consular officer or marking exhibits, for each initialling or marking . . . . .	0.50
	6	Making or verifying (including certifying where necessary) a copy of a document—	
15.00 per page	(a)	in typescript or made by photographic process outside the consular premises, for every 100 words . . . . .	7.50
1.00	(b)	by photographic process, if the copy is made in the consular premises, for each page (with a minimum charge of £4.50) . . . . .	0.50
with minimum charge of £10.00)	(c)	<del>by photographic process, for every 100 words, for each page with a minimum charge of £5.00) . . . . .</del>	<del>0.25</del>
5.00	7	Uniting documents and sealing the fastening (except) where fee 39 is applicable), or affixing a photograph to a document not prepared by the consular officer and if necessary certifying it (except where fee 19 is applicable) . . . . .	3.00

NEW FEE

OLD FEE

£	Fee	£
10.00	8 Obtaining a legalisation or other certification from another authority upon any document . . . . . in addition to costs, if any	4.50
5.00	9 Supplying certified copies of documents forming part of the records of a court which is, or was formerly, established under the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts 1890(a) and 1913(b)— for every page . . . . .	3.00
25.00	10 Making or verifying (including certifying where necessary) a translation in writing of a document or part of a document, for each 100 words or characters (or part thereof) in the foreign language—	
15.00	(a) from or into Amharic, Chinese, Japanese or Korean (three Japanese <i>Kana</i> being counted as one character when used independently) . . . . .	16.00
	(b) from or into any other language . . . . . except where fee 29 or 41 is to be taken	9.00
10.00	11 Translating and interpreting <i>viva voce</i> (except when necessary for the performance of official duties)— for every 15 minutes . . . . .	6.00

PART II

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND KINDRED MATTERS

12	Issuing a passport of not more than 32 pages . . . . . except where fee 15(a) is applicable	15.00
13	Issuing a passport of 94 pages . . . . . except where fee 15(b) is applicable	30.00
14	Issuing a British Visitor's passport . . . . . except where fee 15(c) is applicable	7.50
15	Issuing a passport which includes the particulars of a spouse:	
	(a) a passport of not more than 32 pages . . . . .	22.50
	(b) a passport of 94 pages . . . . .	45.00
	(c) a British Visitor's passport . . . . .	11.25
16	Issuing a collective passport . . . . .	30.00
17	Amending an existing passport by adding the particulars of a child or children . . . . .	4.00
18	Amending an existing passport by amending the holder's name at the request of the holder . . . . .	3.00
19	Amending an existing passport by adding a fresh photograph or amending the holder's description, except where the holder was under 16 years of age at the date of issue . . . . .	3.00
19A	Issuing an excursion document for travel to France . . . . .	2.00

(a) 1890 c. 37.  
(b) 1913 c. 16.

£	Fee	£
	20	
	Making or forwarding, or both, a request or recommendation to or issuing any certificate, declaration, or document which may be required by, an authority of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, a dependency of the United Kingdom, or any other country or territory for or in connection with the application for, issue or renewal of:	
10.00	(a) (i) entry clearance (other than for the United Kingdom or a dependency of the United Kingdom) . . . . .	10.00
5.00	(ii) entry clearance for a dependency of the United Kingdom . . . .	5.00
5.00	(b) a residence permit, identity card, application for registration or naturalisation or any other certificate or document (except a Home Office travel document) . . . . .	4.50
	in addition to costs, if any	
	21	
	Issuing and, where required, preparing an Emergency Passport or other document not otherwise provided for in lieu of a passport, or accepting a Declaration of Identity on which a visa is to be granted and issuing a certificate on such declaration describing the applicant . . . . .	4.50
5.00		
	22	
	(a) Receiving an application outside the United Kingdom for an entry clearance, certificate of entitlement to the right of abode or, if the application is granted, a confirmation of the right of abode . . . . .	50.00
50.00	unless	
	(b) the applicant seeks entry clearance as a returning resident, visitor, student, passenger in transit, "au pair" or for a working holiday, in which case, if the application is granted, the fee is . . . . .	20.00
20.00	or, for multiple entries . . . . .	40.00
40.00	or such sums as the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Treasury, directs to be taken for receiving or granting an application for an entry clearance from a national or citizen of any particular State	
	in addition to fee 20 where applicable	
	23	
	Renewing a Travel Certificate, a certificate of identity or other travel document on behalf of a Commonwealth country or of a dependency of a Commonwealth country . . . . .	8.00
10.00	except where fee 25 is to be taken	
	24	
	Renewing a Travel Certificate, a certificate of identity or other travel document on behalf of a dependency of the United Kingdom . . . . .	8.00
10.00	except where fee 25 is to be taken	
	25	
	Revalidating or renewing a Seaman's Certificate of Nationality and Identity or a Seaman's Identity Book—	
	(a) on behalf of Hong Kong . . . . .	5.50
5.00	(b) otherwise . . . . .	2.50
	in addition to fee 20 where applicable	

## PART III

## MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS

15.00	26	Receiving notice of an intended marriage . . . . .	8.00
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## NEW FEE

## OLD FEE

£	Fee	£
40.00	27 Solemnising or attending a marriage under the Foreign Marriage Acts 1892 to 1947(a), administering oaths to the parties and registering the marriage .....	25.00
15.00	28 Issuing in English or in the local language a certificate that no impediment to an intended marriage has been shown to exist .....	8.00
20.00	29 Transmitting a record of a marriage under the local law to the appropriate Registrar General in accordance with Article 7(1) of the Foreign Marriage Order 1970(b), including the provision of any necessary certification .....	12.00
15.00	30 Issuing a "certificate de coutume" for an intended marriage in accordance with the local law .....	8.00
15.00	31 Registering a birth or death .....	7.00
15.00	32 Making an addition to or correction in the consular register of births, deaths or marriages at the request of the parties concerned .....	7.00
10.00	33 Furnishing a certified copy of an entry in the consular register of births, deaths or marriages— (a) at the time of registration .....	3.00
	(b) subsequently .....	4.50
	in addition to fee 34 where applicable	

## PART IV

## SEARCHES

10.00	34 Making a search in— (a) the consular registers of births, deaths or marriages where the number or date of entry is not provided .....	3.00
15.00	(b) any other records or archives of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom .....	7.00
	in addition to fee 33 where applicable	
20.00	35 Having a search made for, or obtaining copies of, or both, entries in the local registers or records not kept by a consular officer— for an entry in a local register of births, deaths or marriages .....	11.00
	for any other document .....	11.00
	in addition to costs exceeding £1.00	

## PART V

## ESTATES

- 36 Administering in full or in part, safeguarding, or arranging the transmission of all or part of the personal effects and other estate of

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(a) 1892 c. 23; 1934 c. 13; 1947 c. 33.  
(b) S.I. 1970/1539.

NEW FEE	<i>Fee</i>	OLD FEE
		£
rounded up nearest £10.00	a deceased person or proceeds thereof, excepting the wages and personal effects of a seaman and except where the gross current market value is less than £750, on the amount of the gross current market value .....	2% rounded upwards to the nearest £1.00
25.00	but with a fee, where a local lawyer is employed and the matters or things to be done by the consular officer are nominal, of .....	15.00

**PART VI**  
**ATTENDANCES**

10.00	37 Attending (except in connection with commercial enquiries) for each hour or lesser period, including if appropriate the time taken in proceeding from a reasonable point of departure and in returning to a reasonable point—	
	(a) at the consular premises during customary business hours for the purpose of supervising an examination .....	4.50
	except that where two or more persons are sitting examinations at the same time the fee may be apportioned between them	
35.00	(b) during customary business hours but elsewhere than at the consular premises .....	22.00
40.00	(c) outside customary business hours—	
65.00	at the consular premises or residence .....	25.00
	elsewhere .....	40.00
200.00	with—	
	(i) a maximum in any one period of 24 hours of .....	120.00
300.00	(ii) an increase of one-half where the consular officer is accompanied away from the consular premises by another consular officer or a consular employee with a maximum in this event of .....	180.00

**PART VII**  
**MATTERS RELATING TO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

100.00	38 Presiding at the taking of evidence under a commission or order from a Court, including any matter or thing done by the consular officer as examiner—	
65.00	(a) for the first two hours or less on the first day .....	60.00
35.00	(b) for the first two hours or less on each subsequent day ...	42.00
	(c) for each additional hour on any day .....	21.00
25.00	39 Providing evidence of service or attempted service .....	14.00
	in addition to fee 37 or 40	
25.00	40 Providing the services of a consular officer or consular employee—	
10.00	(a) to assist the consular officer in the taking of evidence under a commission or order from a Court, for each such person—	
	} for each sitting of two hours or less .....	14.00
	} for each additional hour at each sitting .....	4.50



NEW FEE £	Fee	OLD FEE £
	(b) to effect or endeavour to effect service of a document, for each hour or shorter period elsewhere than at the consular premises—	
25.00	during customary business hours .....	14.00
40.00	outside customary business hours .....	23.00
25.00	41 Forwarding a request to a local authority for the taking of evidence or the service of a document and, where necessary, certifying the accuracy of a translation accompanying the document .....	14.00

PART VIII

REPATRIATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

30.00	42 Arranging the repatriation of a person or a group of persons of the same family and travelling together .....	30.00
15.00	43 Advancing currency to a traveller on payment of a sterling cheque or against the deposit elsewhere of funds with or to the order of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom ..... in addition to fee 37 where applicable	15.00

PART IX

SHIPPING, SEAMEN AND KINDRED MATTERS

30.00	44 Receiving or recording a declaration under Part I of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894(a) with a view to the registry, transfer and transmission of ships, interests in ships, or mortgages of ships .....	16.50
15.00	45 Endorsing a memorandum of change of master upon the certificate of registry and initialling, where required, the new master's signature on the agreement with the crew .....	8.00
70.00	46 Granting a provisional certificate of registry ..... in addition to fee 44 where applicable	44.00
70.00	47 Recording a mortgage of a ship or of shares in a ship .....	44.00
70.00	48 Recording the transfer of a mortgage of a ship or of shares in a ship ...	44.00
70.00	49 Recording the discharge of a mortgage of a ship or of shares in a ship	44.00
70.00	50 Making an interposition in the sale of a ship or of shares in a ship .....	44.00
10.00	51 Receiving a return of the birth or death of any person on board a ship and endorsing the agreement with the crew accordingly .....	4.50
15.00	52 Certifying a form of claim for wages and other matters, if any, of a deceased seaman or apprentice .....	7.00

(a) 1894 c. 60.

NEW FEE £	Fee	OLD FEE £
35.00	53 Examining or arranging for the examination of provisions or water, payable by the party who proves to be in default ..... in addition to the cost, if any, of survey	22.00
150.00	54 Preparing and attesting a salvage bond executed in pursuance of section 560(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894, payable by the master or owner of the property salvaged .....	83.00
25.00	55 Noting a marine protest and furnishing one certified copy if required	16.50
15.00	for every further copy .....	8.00
70.00	56 Extending a marine protest, filing the original and furnishing one certified copy if required— for any number of words up to 200, excluding the declaratory clause .....	44.00
15.00	for every subsequent 100 words or less .....	8.00
	in addition to fees 1 and 3 where applicable	
35.00	57 Filing a request for survey and issuing an order of survey .....	22.00
70.00	58 Receiving a report of a survey, filing the original and furnishing one certified copy, if required, of the request, order and report of survey— for any number of words up to 200, excluding the words in the consular certificate .....	44.00
15.00	for every subsequent 100 words or less .....	8.00
25.00	59 Issuing a bill of health .....	16.50
25.00	60 Addressing at the request of the master an application to local authorities for the arrest, imprisonment or release of seamen or apprentices— for each seaman or apprentice .....	11.00
25.00	61 Granting such certificate as to the number of the crew and other matters as may be required by local authorities for the clearance inwards and outwards of a ship .....	14.00
	in addition to fee 72 or 65 where applicable	
15.00	62 Drawing up, in the form and language required by local authorities, a muster-roll or detailed list giving the names and other details of each member of the crew .....	8.00
	in addition to fee 61 unless a certificate in the form of a muster-roll or list is required for the clearance of the vessel	
20.00	63 Signing and, if required, sealing the original of a ship's manifest and signing any copies on the same occasion .....	11.00
15.00	64 Signing and, if required, sealing any entry in the official log-book of a ship where such entry is not required under the Merchant Shipping Acts .....	7.00

NEW FEE	Fee	OLD FEE
£		£
15.00	65 Inspecting a ship's papers when required to enable a consular officer to do any matter or thing in respect of a ship ..... except where— (a) the papers are already in the custody of the consular officer and fee 72 has been taken, or (b) the master opens a new agreement at the consular premises	8.00
15.00	66 Inspecting the marking of a ship, irrespective of the number of visits in addition to fee 37	8.00
15.00	67 Making a request for survey and arranging for the issue of a certificate in accordance with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974(a) .....	8.00
<i>The following fees are to be levied only in respect of British ships not registered in the United Kingdom:—</i>		
10.00	68 Sanctioning the engagement of seamen— for each seaman ..... with— (a) a maximum where a crew or part of a crew transfer from one British ship to another, or (b) a maximum in respect of each ship where crews or parts of crews transfer between British ships,	4.50
150.00	of ..... in addition to fee 73 or 65 where applicable	83.00
10.00	69 Attesting alterations in the agreement with the crew— for each alteration in respect of each seaman concerned .....	4.50
150.00	with a maximum on each separate occasion of .....	83.00
10.00	70 Sanctioning the discharge of seamen or leaving behind of seamen and apprentices— for each seaman or apprentice .....	4.50
	with— (a) a maximum where a crew or part of a crew transfer from one British ship to another, or (b) a maximum in respect of each ship where crews or parts of crews transfer between British ships,	
150.00	of ..... except where an apprentice— (a) is transferred whilst overseas from one ship to another, or (b) having come to the end of his indentures, signs on as a seaman in addition to fee 65 where applicable	83.00
10.00	71 Certifying desertions of seamen and apprentices— for each seaman or apprentice .....	4.50

(a) Cmnd. 7874.

NEW FEE		OLD FEE
£	<i>Fee</i>	£
15.00	72 Taking custody of a ship's papers, and making any necessary endorsements thereon, and giving the certificate required by section 257(2) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 .....	8.00
10.00	73 Preparing a fresh agreement with the crew when a new agreement is opened at a foreign port and furnishing the copy which must be made accessible to the crew—	
70.00	for each seaman .....	4.50
150.00	with a minimum of .....	45.00
	and a maximum of .....	83.00
	in addition to fee 68	

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Order.)*

This Order revokes and replaces the Consular Fees Order 1981. It increases most of the consular fees and makes a few amendments to the services for which fees are charged. In particular, some changes have been made to fees 12 to 15 (passport fees), a new fee for granting a multiple entry visa or permit has been introduced (fee 22) and changes have been made in the way that fees 36 (estates) and 43 (financial assistance) are calculated.

*Foreign Policy*

CONFIDENTIAL

OD

JS

*File*



*cc: Home Sec  
hd Chancellor  
(Foreign Sec)  
Chancellor/Exp  
Defence Sec  
hd Pres.  
12 July 1979  
hd Privy Seal  
Trade Sec*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

12 July 1979

*+ C.O.*

CONSULAR FEES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Prime Minister has seen the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's memorandum of 10 July about the introduction of a bill to extend authority to levy fees for consular services.

Subject to the views of her colleagues in OD, the Prime Minister is content that Lord Carrington should proceed as proposed in his memorandum.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of OD and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

T. P. LANKESTER

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*osc*

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

OD JS

cc: Home Sec  
Chancellor  
Defence Sec  
Int. Affs.  
Lord Privy Seal  
Trade Sec  
+ C.O.

059

# Grey Scale #13



**A** 1 2 3 4 5 6 **M** 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **B** 17 18 19



Inches 1 2 3

Centimetres 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

## Colour Chart #13

Blue

Cyan

Green

Yellow

