



FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE BRITISH BEHAVIOUR ABROAD REPORT 2014

Overview of total worldwide figures of Consular assistance over the past five years

	Total Consular assistance cases	Drug Arrests	Arrests (including drug arrests)	Deaths ¹	Hospitalisations	Rapes	Sexual Assaults	Other Assistance ²	Lost and stolen passports/Emergency travel documents
2009/10	19,839	994	6,439	5,930	3,689	132	140	3,509	27,272
2010/11	19,228	799	5,700	5,972	3,752	115	163	3,526	25,969
2011/12	19,874	816	6,015	6,237	3,739	127	154	3,602	28,659
2012/13	19,244	669	5,435	6,193	3,599	138	172	3,707	28,783
2013/14	17,517	717	5,418	4,110	3,157	106	152	4,488	31,134

¹ We no longer record death notifications (where we have had no other involvement) as consular cases. This has affected the number of cases recorded in 2013/14.

² "Other assistance" includes a number of additional attributes compared to the British Behaviour Abroad 2013 report, which accounts for the size of the increase in this column in 2013/14.

Top 20 countries where British nationals required the most Consular assistance from 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014

The following chart is ordered by number of total Consular assistance cases, from highest to lowest. 2012-2013 figures correspond to 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013

Country	Number of Visitors ³	Number of British Residents ⁴	Drug Arrests		Total Arrests / Detention		Total Deaths		Hospitalisation		Rape		Sexual Assault		Total Other Assistance		Total Assistance	
			13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13
Spain	11,749,000 ⁵	770,358	173	103	1,389	1,599	856	1,492	675	899	22	31	18	39	587	598	3,547	4,658
USA	3,547,505	2,286,980	111	159	1,153	1,120	125	153	149	140	2	3	0	1	219	131	1,648	1,548
Thailand	906,312	50,000	29	36	153	188	362	389	267	285	11	9	6	4	365	266	1,164	1,141
France	17,000,000	400,000 ³	28	28	181	134	346	820	156	211	6	5	6	5	274	183	969	1,358
Greece	1,850,000	35,000 ⁶	15	14	91	87	160	165	320	359	17	17	16	12	80	75	684	715
United Arab Emirates	626,000 ⁵	100,000	16	13	261	244	75	54	54	54	1	4	8	5	100	75	499	436
Cyprus	935,000	59,000 ⁶	22	25	138	150	157	220	90	105	3	5	4	7	88	78	480	565
Australia	620,602	1,196,000 ³	23	2	145	106	72	87	51	69	3	2	2	0	157	109	430	373
India	842,000 ⁵	80,000	4	7	59	42	89	103	67	80	0	0	6	3	147	124	368	352
Germany	2,294,117	103,427 ³	5	10	133	121	146	516	40	34	0	0	0	1	47	33	366	705
Turkey	2,509,357	51,000 ⁶	11	4	69	44	75	114	88	107	7	20	19	16	95	70	353	371
China	1,144,760	283,600	7	10	130	119	66	72	46	46	1	4	2	5	102	92	347	338
Philippines	122,759	15,000	4	7	42	27	82	94	47	34	1	1	0	2	158	114	330	272
Pakistan	393,000 ⁵	80,000	8	3	30	21	21	39	13	10	0	1	1	0	239	167	304	238
Portugal	2,111,000 ⁵	33,298	4	12	15	27	131	194	85	116	0	0	0	3	66	63	297	403
Egypt	950,000	20,000	0	0	64	32	49	49	63	130	5	6	16	20	80	99	277	336
Canada	663,219	611,000 ⁶	27	14	111	132	32	139	21	19	0	0	1	0	75	55	240	345
Switzerland	698,375	42,473 ³	0	1	16	8	173	150	12	11	0	0	0	0	16	15	217	184
Italy	2,829,000 ⁵	59,120	11	9	31	37	45	67	59	89	1	2	2	5	74	71	212	271
Jamaica	151,314	100,000	38	46	63	64	23	40	17	21	1	2	2	0	70	60	176	187
Total Worldwide Figures			708	669	5,418	5,435	4,110	6,193	3,157	3,599	106	138	152	172	4,488	3,707	17,517	19,244

³ Figures from individual country authorities / governments.

⁴ British Embassy / High Commission estimate.

⁵ Travel Trends 2013, Office for National Statistics.

⁶ Global Brit: Making the most of the British diaspora (2010).

The following chart is ordered by the country that British nationals are most likely to require assistance. The chart has been calculated by taking the number of assistance cases divided by the number of visitors and residents combined.

Country	Number of Visitors	Number of British Residents	Visitors and residents combined	Total Assistance 2013/14
Philippines	122,759	15,000	137,759	330
Thailand	906,312	50,000	956,312	1,164
Jamaica	151,314	100,000	251,314	176
UAE	626,000	100,000	726,000	499
Pakistan	393,000	80,000	473,000	304
Cyprus	935,000	59,000	994,000	480
India	842,000	80,000	922,000	368
Greece	1,850,000	35,000	1,885,500	684
Switzerland	698,375	42,473	740,848	217
Egypt	950,000	20,000	970,000	277
Spain	11,749,000	770,358	12,519,358	3,547
USA	3,547,505	2,286,980	5,834,485	1,648
China	1,144,760	283,600	1,428,360	347
Australia	620,602	1,196,000	1,816,602	430
Canada	663,219	611,000	1,274,219	240
Germany	2,294,117	103,427	2,397,544	366
Portugal	2,111,000	33,298	2,144,298	297
Turkey	2,509,357	51,000	2,560,357	353
Italy	2,829,000	59,120	2,888,120	212
France	17,000,000	400,000	17,400,000	969

Notes:

Total Worldwide Figures: includes all countries

Top 20 List: Compiled using total assistance services for all countries decided by the following attributes: Arrest – drugs; arrest; death; hospitalisation; rape; assault – sexual; and other assistance.

Other Assistance includes cases recorded under the following attributes: Abduction; Accident – General; Assault - General; Child - Access; Child – Abduction; Child – Custody; Deportation; Domestic Violence; Extradition; Female Genital Mutilation; Financial Transaction; Forced Marriage; Held Against Will; Mental health; Missing Persons; Reluctant Sponsor; Repatriation; Shipping; Surrogacy; Transfer from Crisis; Welfare; and missing person reports. Some of these attributes are new to this year’s British Behaviour Abroad report, which has contributed to the increase in cases compared to 2012/13.

REPORT FINDINGS AND FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRAVEL ADVICE

HOSPITALISATIONS

Report findings:

- *Spain remains the country with the highest number of British nationals hospitalised (675 cases) but the number has reduced significantly compared to last year, with a 24% decrease.*
- *The overall number of hospitalisation cases is lower than last year, including in popular holiday hotspots such as Greece (11%), Portugal (27%) and Cyprus (14%).*
- *Hospitalisation cases in France have reduced by 26% (to 156 cases). Part of this decrease might be attributed to a fall in ski-related incidents.*
- *Consular staff have continued to work closely with local hospitals and partner organisations to ensure they provide the right support, and we have also implemented successful prevention campaigns on issues such as alcohol and the importance of being covered by travel insurance – all of which may have had an impact.*
- *Proportionally British nationals are most likely to be hospitalised in the Philippines, which saw a 38% increase in cases (to 47 cases).*

FCO advice:

- Research the health risks of the country you are visiting as soon as possible before travelling, so you can get the right vaccinations and preventative measures (e.g. malaria tablets) if required. Visit <http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/travelhealth/Pages/Travelhealthhome.aspx> for more information.
- Ensure your medication is legal in the country you are visiting – contact the Embassy of the country to which you are travelling and visit <http://www.nathnac.org> and www.nhs.uk for more information.
- Check the small print of your travel insurance policy to make sure you are covered for holiday activities such as moped or quad bike hire, and remember that most insurers won't pay out if you injure yourself or others when under the influence of alcohol.

DEATHS ABROAD

Report findings:

- *The total number of death cases we recorded was significantly lower in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13 (6,193 to 4,110 cases – a 34% reduction). This was due largely to a change in the way our consular staff record cases: we no longer record death notifications (where we have had no other involvement) as consular cases. By working more closely with hospitals and partner organisations we are ensuring people get a better service and allowing our frontline staff to focus on our most vulnerable customers.*
- *The country with the highest number of deaths of British nationals recorded was Spain (856 cases), followed by Thailand (362) and France (346).*
- *As a proportion, British nationals remain significantly more likely to die in the Philippines than in any other country. This is due to the large number of elderly British expats who live there, a group which continues to account for most of the hospitalisation or death cases. Relatively few tourists die or are hospitalised.*

FCO advice around death abroad:

- No matter how old or how fit you are, take out comprehensive travel insurance – if an uninsured person dies whilst abroad any treatment they have received and their repatriation to the UK is unlikely to be covered. Bringing a body back to the UK can cost thousands of pounds.
- If you are living in the UK and a relative or friend dies when abroad, you should contact the FCO on 020 7008 1500. If you are abroad, you should contact the relevant Embassy, High Commission or Consulate.
- It is essential that the death is registered in the country where the person died. The FCO can advise you how to do this. The FCO can also advise you about bringing a body and personal belongings back to the UK and provide support during this distressing time.

RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Report findings:

- *Overall there was a 23% decrease in reported rape cases compared to 2012/13. The 106 cases we dealt with in 2013/14 was the lowest number we have recorded in a decade.*
- *There was also a 12% decrease in the number of reported sexual assaults, with the total number of sexual assault cases at its lowest in four years.*
- *The highest number of reported sexual assaults occurred in Spain (18 cases), but this still represented a decrease of 54% compared to the previous year (39 cases). There was also a decrease in the number of reported rape cases in Spain, from 31 in 2012/13 to 22 (a reduction of 29%).*
- There was a 65% fall in the number of reported rape cases in Turkey, where FCO consular and specialist staff have been working with local authorities and partners to help minimise the risk to tourists and improve the handling of these cases when they do happen.

FCO advice on rape and sexual assault abroad:

- We encourage anyone who is a victim of rape or sexual assault overseas to contact their nearest Embassy

or Consulate for support. Contact details for Embassies can be found on the FCO website at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations>.

- We can offer support in a number of ways including explaining local procedures, accompanying people to the police station, helping them deal with local authorities and medical staff and contacting friends or family at home if requested.
- We would encourage people to take the same precautions they would at home to avoid putting themselves at risk – for example keeping an eye on their friends; never accepting car rides from strangers, and asking their hotel to recommend a taxi firm; and never leaving food or drinks unattended, so they can't be spiked.

ARRESTS, DRUG ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS

Report findings:

- *There was a slight decrease (of 17 cases) in the overall number of arrests recorded in 2013/14 compared to the year before. Most cases were handled in Spain (1,389), followed by the USA (1,153) and the United Arab Emirates (261).*
- *Although the total number of arrests globally has decreased, some countries have seen an increase in cases, including the Philippines, Egypt and France.*
- *Drug arrests involving British nationals abroad have increased by 7% to 717, following the significant drop last year (669). However, the number of cases remains low compared to recent years.*
- *Most drug arrests were handled in Spain with 173 cases, a 68% increase on the previous year (103 cases), which may be attributed to an increase in local authority action. The second largest number of arrests were recorded in the USA with 111 cases, a 30% decrease on the previous year.*

FCO advice:

- Don't take risks with the law abroad – or you could end up throwing years of your life away in a foreign prison.

- Think about what you are doing at all times and trust your instincts – do not take risks that you would not at home. Many countries have a zero-tolerance approach to offences involving drugs and alcohol and sentences can be long.
- It is a good idea to research the local laws and customs of the country you are visiting – there may be serious penalties for breaking a law that might seem trivial at home. Advice relating to country-specific local laws and customs can be found at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

Report findings:

- *The total recorded cases of other types of assistance increased to 4,488 in 2013/14 (up from 3,707 in 2012/13 – an increase of 21%), driven by the addition to this category of several attributes new to the British Behaviour Abroad report this year.*
- *There was a rise in recorded cases involving British nationals with mental health needs, from 383 to 442 – an increase of 15%. The countries with the highest number of cases were Spain, France and the USA.*

FCO advice:

- If you are experiencing difficulties with your mental health while abroad, your nearest British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate may be able to offer assistance. See <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice-for-people-with-mental-health-issues> for more information and look at our leaflet, *Mental Health: Travelling Overseas*, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health>.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO CAMPAIGN

The British Behaviour Abroad figures have been released as part of the Know Before You Go (KBYG) campaign, which encourages British nationals to prepare for their foreign travel so they can avoid preventable problems. The campaign works with over 300 industry partners to communicate its messages to help Britons stay safe and healthy abroad.

Before you travel, visit www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo to get the latest travel advice about your destination, and make a note of the number of the nearest British Embassy or Consulate to where you are staying, so you can ask for help if you need it.

Report updated in October 2014