



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Consular Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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04 August 2015

Dear,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST: FOI 00709-15

Thank you for your email of 18 July 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please provide me with the following information:

- 1. Number of UK nationals who died abroad in 2014, broken down into gender and age groups if possible*
- 2. Which countries they died in*
- 3. Cause of death*

Outcome of Search

We have now completed our search and consultation process and I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information relevant to your request.

Disclosure

We are unable to provide you with all the information you have requested. It is not mandatory for the death of a British national (BN) to be reported to the FCO or one of its diplomatic missions. It is also not mandatory to record cause of death, age or gender, when we are informed of the death.

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. Some information relevant to your request is available in published statistics on the numbers of deaths reported to the FCO or its diplomatic missions. The information is shown by diplomatic mission only. This information is available on gov.uk, via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/consular-data>



As stated earlier, we do not automatically record the age or gender for every death reported to the FCO. We can provide indicative percentages for age and gender relating to all deaths in 2014, where the date of birth or gender are recorded. For 2014, the information available is:

Gender: Female: approximately 26%
 Male: approximately 74%

Age Range:	
<18	2%
18-30	5%
31-40	4%
41-50	10%
51-60	18%
61-70	26%
71-80	21%
80+	14%

We also mentioned earlier, that we do not automatically record cause of death for every death reported to the FCO. We record each case by a high-level attribute, such as Death – Murder. You may find these attributes helpful, but it is not mandatory for our staff to record specific cause of death information on our databases.

We would have to search every case for gender, age or cause of death. Finding the information would exceed the appropriate cost limit. Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Your request as presently formulated is widely-framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances, we are not obliged under the FOIA to comply with your request. You may wish to refine your request to bring it within the cost limit. For instance, you could set a shorter timeframe and/or specify a particular country.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in this letter will be removed before publishing.

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