



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Consular Directorate

WH4.36
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

www.gov.uk/government/organisations

11 May 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0393-16

Thank you for your email of 10 April asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked;

'I would like to know, as far as your department is aware, how many British nationals have made a complaint of alleged torture or mistreatment while in detention abroad. Please therefore limit the scope of my request to the Middle East region with a priority given to the countries below (in highest to lowest priority order):

- 1) Saudi Arabia
- 2) Qatar
- 3) Kuwait
- 4) Bahrain
- 5) Jordan
- 6) Israel
- 7) Egypt
- 8) Iraq
- 9) Turkey
- 10) Oman
- 11) Yemen
- 12) Lebanon
- 13) Iran

If the scope of my request must be limited to a specific 12-month period, please provide figures for January 2015 to December 2015.'

Outcome of Search

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

Disclosure

A search of our records has shown that the FCO Consular Directorate is aware of the following numbers of complaints of alleged torture or mistreatment of British Nationals while in detention abroad from January 2015 to December 2015:

1) Saudi Arabia	<=5
2) Qatar	<=5
3) Kuwait	6
4) Bahrain	0
5) Jordan	0
6) Israel	<=5
7) Egypt	0
8) Iraq	0
9) Turkey	0
10) Oman	0
11) Yemen	0
12) Lebanon	0
13) Iran	0

We take all allegations of mistreatment extremely seriously and will always raise these with relevant authorities with the individuals' consent.

Please note that where the number of reported cases is less or equal to five, these are annotated as <=5, to avoid the risk of identifying the individuals concerned. To release this data would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the FOIA apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

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Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer

FOI / DPA Team
Consular Directorate



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