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18 January 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 1225-17

Thank you for your email of 19 December 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

REPATRIATION

- 1. How many of the FMU's cases involved the repatriation of victims from abroad?**
- 2. Of these, how many cases involved victims aged 15 and under who were already in a forced marriage?**
- 3. In how many of the cases identified in question 2 was the identity of the 'husband' recorded by the FMU?**
- 4. In how many of the cases identified in question 2 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to the police in the UK?**
- 5. In how many of the cases identified in question 2 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to UK Visas and Immigration?**
- 6. How many of the cases identified in question 2 were referred to social services in the UK?**
- 7. In how many of the cases identified in question 2 was the victim pregnant or already a parent?**
- 8. In how many of the cases identified in question 7 was the identity of the 'husband' recorded by the FMU?**
- 9. In how many of the cases identified in question 7 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to the police in the UK?**
- 10. In how many of the cases identified in question 7 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to UK Visas & Immigration?**
- 11. How many of the FMU's repatriation cases involved victims aged 15 and under who were at risk of a forced marriage?**
- 12. How many of the cases identified in question 11 were referred to social services in the UK?**

13. *How many of the FMU's repatriation cases involved victims aged 16 and 17 who were already in a forced marriage?*
14. *In how many of the cases identified in question 13 was the identity of the 'husband' recorded by the FMU?*
15. *In how many of the cases identified in question 13 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to the police in the UK?*
16. *In how many of the cases identified in question 13 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to UK Visas and Immigration?*
17. *How many of the cases identified in question 13 were referred to social services in the UK?*
18. *In how many of the cases identified in question 13 had the victim been pregnant or already a mother when she was 15?*
19. *In how many of the cases identified in question 18 was the identity of the 'husband' recorded by the FMU?*
20. *In how many of the cases identified in question 18 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to the police in the UK?*
21. *In how many of the cases identified in question 18 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to UK Visas & Immigration?*
22. *How many of the FMU's repatriation cases involved victims aged 16 and 17 who were at risk of a forced marriage?*
23. *How many of the cases identified in question 22 were referred to social services in the UK?*

UK CASES

24. *How many of the FMU's cases were solely based in the UK?*
25. *Of these, how many cases involved victims aged 15 and under who were already in a forced marriage?*
26. *How many of the cases identified in question 25 were referred to social services?*
27. *In how many of the cases identified in question 25 was the 'husband' reported to the police?*
28. *In how many of the cases identified in question 25 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to UK Visas & Immigration?*
29. *In how many of the cases identified in question 25 was the victim pregnant or already a parent?*
30. *How many of the cases identified in question 29 were referred to social services?*
31. *In how many of the cases identified in question 29 was the 'husband' reported to the police?*
32. *In how many of the cases identified in question 29 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to UK Visas & Immigration?*
33. *How many of the FMU's solely UK cases involved victims aged 15 and under who were at risk of a forced marriage?*
34. *How many of the cases identified in question 33 were referred to social services in the UK?*
35. *How many of the FMU's solely UK cases involved victims aged 16 and 17 who were already in a forced marriage?*
36. *How many of the cases identified in question 35 were referred to social services?*
37. *In how many of the cases identified in question 35 was the 'husband' reported to the police?*

- 38. In how many of the cases identified in question 35 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to UK Visas & Immigration?**
- 39. In how many of the cases identified in question 35 had the victim been pregnant or already a mother when she was 15?**
- 40. How many of the cases identified in question 39 were referred to social services?**
- 41. In how many of the cases identified in question 39 was the 'husband' reported to the police?**
- 42. In how many of the cases identified in question 39 was the identity of the 'husband' reported to UK Visas & Immigration?**
- 43. How many of the FMU's solely UK cases involved victims aged 16 and 17 who were at risk of a forced marriage?**
- 44. How many of the cases identified in question 43 were referred to social services in the UK?**

The UK is a world-leader in tackling forced marriage, with our dedicated Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leading efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. Assistance provided ranges from safety advice through to, in extreme circumstances, rescues of victims held against their will overseas. The FMU also runs a public helpline, providing advice and support to victims, as well as to professionals dealing with cases, as set out in our public guide "Support for British Nationals Abroad: a Guide". I include a link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/584047/FCO_Brits_Abroad_web130117.pdf

I can confirm that the FCO does hold information relevant to your request. We are able to respond to questions 1 and 24:

Question 1: How many of the FMU's cases involved the repatriation of victims from abroad?

2015: Data not available

2016: 55

2017: 27

Question 24: How many of the FMU's cases were solely based in the UK?

2015: 175

2016: 157

2017: This figure will be published in March 2018

We have withheld some of the information requested and applied the following exemption:

Section 12 Cost Limit

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 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. To answer several of the questions posed (*Questions 2, 11, 13, 25, 33, 35 and 43*) would require a search of all our case files to enable us to retrieve and extract this information. This process would take the request over the cost limitations 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 Act to comply with your request.

We do not hold data to reply to the remaining questions posed.

You may wish to refine your request to narrow its scope to bring it within the appropriate limit. Please note that any new request will be given a separate reference number and we will then consider whether we can provide the information requested within the appropriate cost limit. This would of course be subject to the consideration of whether any of the other exemptions under the FOI Act apply. I want to highlight that if an answer to a question is 5 or less, we may not be able to provide an exact number to prevent the possibility of identification of any individual. I include below a link to the Forced Marriage Unit statistics for 2016. This illustrates the information and stats held and published. Statistics for 2017 are due to be published in March.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forced-marriage-unit-statistics-2016>

Yours sincerely,

Central FOI & DPA Team
PMCS
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



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