



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Consular Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH  
**Email:** FOI/DPATeam.Consular@fco.gov.uk  
**Website:** <https://www.gov.uk>

28 January 2015

*Dear*

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 1159-14**

Thank you for your email of 29 December 2014 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I would like to request information on the current numbers of British citizens facing death sentences and on death rows around the world. In particular, I'd like to request information on:*

- *The number of British citizens facing death sentences around the world broken down by country;*
- *The number of British citizens facing death sentences around the world broken down by type of offence;*
- *The number of British citizens on death rows around the world broken down by country; and*
- *The number of British citizens on death rows around the world broken down by type of offence.*

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.

The British Government takes a strong and principled stance on the death penalty, lobbying for its moratorium or removal from statute globally. It is the longstanding policy of HMG to oppose the death penalty in all circumstances and we aim to do everything we can to prevent the execution of any British national anywhere in the world.

The figures below are only for British citizens facing death sentences or on death row that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been made aware of. We have used the terminology that you have used in your FOI request. However, please take note of the footnotes on each of the tables below that sets out our definition of each box.



British citizens facing death penalty broken down by country <sup>1</sup>	
Bangladesh	<=5
Ethiopia	<=5
India	<=5
Indonesia	<=5
Pakistan	21
St Kitts & Nevis	<=5
Thailand	<=5
United Arab Emirates	<=5
United States of America	<=5

British citizens facing death penalty broken down by type of offence <sup>2</sup>	
Blasphemy	<=5
Dangerous driving with intent to kill	<=5
Drugs	10
Kidnapping	<=5
Murder	17
Murder & Conspiracy	<=5
Terrorism	<=5

British citizens on death rows broken down by country <sup>3</sup>	
Democratic Republic of Congo	<=5
Egypt	<=5
Ethiopia	<=5
Ghana	<=5
Indonesia	<=5
Kenya	<=5
Pakistan	<=5
United States of America	<=5

British citizens on death rows broken down by type of offence <sup>4</sup>	
Blasphemy	<=5
Drugs	<=5
Murder	8
Terrorism	<=5

**Note:** figures on 12 January 2015

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 Freedom of Information Act 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

<sup>1</sup> Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by country, who are awaiting trial or on trial, and face the possibility of a death sentence.

<sup>2</sup> Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by type of offence, who are awaiting trial or on trial, and face the possibility of a death sentence

<sup>3</sup> Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by country, who have been sentenced to death

<sup>4</sup> Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by type of offence, who have been sentenced to death



view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCO will have been produced by government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives website.

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non-Crown Copyright) information.

I hope you are satisfied with this reply. However, if you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the FOI and DPA Team at:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
Room K4.14,  
King Charles Street,  
London, SW1A 2AH.  
E-mail: [foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk](mailto:foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk)

You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

You can also find out more about previous FOI replies published on our website at [Publications - Inside Government - GOV.UK](#).

Yours sincerely,



Consular FOI/DPA Team  
Consular Directorate



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.