



11 April 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0136-14

Thank you for your email of 3rd February 2014 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act, namely:

I am looking for information on Missing Persons Investigations on UK Nationals abroad, can you please tell me:

- 1. What are the statistics for UK National Missing persons abroad over the last five years?***
- 2. how many of those missing persons are under the age of 16?***
- 3. How many UK National Missing persons Investigations have been unsuccessful over the last five years?***
- 4. How many of the missing persons over the last 5 years were 'lost persons'?***
- 5. How many of the missing persons over the last 5 years went missing voluntarily?***

I apologise for the delay in replying. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with all the information you have requested. The table below gives the number of cases involving British nationals who were reported as missing abroad to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its overseas Posts between April 2009 and February 2014, broken down by financial year (question 1).

Missing Persons cases opened by FCO Posts over the last five years*	
Financial year (Apr-Mar)	Number of cases
FY 2009-10	600
FY 2010-11	608
FY 2011-12	639
FY 2012-13	706
FY 2013-14*	506
TOTALS	3,059

* Figures up to February 2014.

This data has been taken from the FCO's global consular assistance database, and includes cases that were recorded by consular officers where the main or secondary reason that consular assistance was provided was in connection with a missing person case.

We can provide some information about the age of those recorded missing on our database (question 2). We are able to identify 2227 cases on Compass where the date of birth is present, of which only 46 involved persons aged under 16. We are unable to check the remaining cases for a number of reasons:

- It is not mandatory for our staff to record dates of birth on our database
- Cases are also removed from the database as per Data Protection requirements so the information is not always available
- Some cases were not correctly recorded so we were unable to obtain the date of birth.

Unfortunately, we do not hold central records for parts 3 – 5 of your information request and so cannot provide details of investigations for each of the cases above.

The FCO can also neither confirm nor deny that it holds any further information for the cases identified above as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, does not apply by virtue of sections 23(5) of the Act.

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.