



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>

17 August 2015

Dear,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST: FOI 0739-15

Thank you for your email of 12 July 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Q1: I would like an overview of total worldwide figures of UK Consular assistance over the past five years (2010/11 – 2014-15).

Q2: I would like the Top 20 Countries where British nationals required the most consular assistance from 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2014 (with breakdown of No Visitors, No British Residents, Drug Arrests, Total Arrests/Detention, Total Deaths, Hospitalisation, Rape, Sexual Assault, Total other Assistance).

Q3: I would like a breakdown of the alleged offences for the total arrests/detentions over the past two years (2014/15 – 2013/14 and if possible for each country).

Q4: I would like a breakdown of 'Other Assistance' recorded under the following attributes for over the past two years (2014/15 and 2013/2014) and if possible a separate breakdown for each country: Abduction; Accident – General Assault – General; Child-Access; Child – Abduction; Child – Custody; Deportation; Domestic Violence; Extradition; Female Genital Mutilation; Financial Transaction; Forced Marriage; Held Against Will; Mental health; Missing persons; Reluctant Sponsor; Repatriation; Shipping; Surrogacy; Transfer from Crisis, Welfare; and missing person reports.

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

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 of the information you have requested is available on the Gov.uk website.

The information relating to your questions one and two (2010-11 to 2013-14) can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/british-behaviour-abroad-reports>

The information for your questions one and two (2014-15) has recently been published on Gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/helping-british-nationals-abroad-2015>.

You also asked for a breakdown of the offences for the total arrests/detentions (Q3). Our current database does not automatically record the offence. It is also not mandatory to record this information on our database. In order to establish whether we hold this information, we would need to manually search each individual record.

Therefore checking these cases 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.

The FCO does record arrests/detentions cases under four attributes on our consular assistance database. The table below provides the total number of arrests/detentions cases by attribute currently recorded on the FCO's global consular assistance database for 2013-14 and 2014-15. The consular assistance database only includes those cases reported to the FCO.

Cases recorded on consular's assistance database		
Compass Attribute	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
Arrest/Detention - Child Sex	63	62
Arrest/Detention - Drugs	745	713
Arrest/Detention - General	4,035	3428
Arrest/Detention - Immigration	654	642



The table below provides the total number of 'Other Assistance' cases by attribute currently recorded on the FCO's global consular assistance database for 2013-14 and 2014-15 (Q4). The consular assistance database only includes those cases reported to the FCO.

Cases recorded on consular's assistance database		
Compass Attribute	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
Abduction	35	20
Access	0	0
Child Abduction	249	235
Child Custody	309	254
Deportation	145	112
Domestic Violence	10	95
Extradition	26	15
Female Genital Mutilation	<=5	7
Financial Transaction	434	490
Forced marriage *	151	141
General	146	140
Held Against Will	7	60
Mental Health	447	499
Missing persons	682	726
Reluctant Sponsor	25	<=5
Repatriation	8	6
Shipping	<=5	<=5
Surrogacy	<=5	11
Transfer from Crisis	24	19
Welfare	1256	1291

* Forced marriage statistics also available on Gov.uk:
<https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage#statistics-on-forced-marriage-collected-by-fmu>

You asked for these figure by country. As a large number of the figures for each country fall between one and five, we have had to withhold the actual figures. Where the total number of cases is between one and five we withhold the exact figure to avoid the risk of identifying the individuals concerned. To be helpful we have provide the total figures for 2013-14 and 2014-15.



Publication and Copyright

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 the letter will be removed before publishing.

The information being 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.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer

Consular Directorate

