



Foreign &
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18 November 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0996-15

Thank you for your email of 14 October 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“Can you tell me how many British nationals are currently jailed in Saudi Arabia and what they are jailed for?”

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

The number of British nationals currently jailed in Saudi Arabia, as at 14 October 2015, is five or fewer.

I have withheld the reason that the individuals were jailed 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 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,

Consular FOI/DPA team
Consular Directorate

