



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Consular Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

12 November 2014

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF 0966-14**

Thank you for your email of 17 October 2014 asking for information that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) might hold under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in respect of:

*I would like to know the number and percentage of possible forced marriage cases in London over the last 5 years.*

You additionally asked:

*I would also like the numbers of possible forced marriage cases in each of the London boroughs over the last five years as well as the age range of victims, including the youngest and oldest.*

**Outcome of Search**

I am writing to confirm that the FCO does have information relevant to your request. We do not hold the information in as much detail as you have requested but what we do have is set out below.

**Information Released**

Please see a breakdown of **reported** figures related to the London region as discussed:

***High Level Statistics***

	Instances where the Forced Marriage Unit provided advice or support related to a possible forced marriage	% the London region
2009	1682	29%
2010	1735	21%
2011	1468	19%
2012	1485	21%
2013	1302	25%

## **Gender and Age**

We do not release data on the age range of victims by region of the UK in order to protect their identity. <sup>1</sup> For the same reason, we no longer publish national data on the age of the youngest or oldest victims. This part of your request is for personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the FOIA 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, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

We do not record London data by borough. We did not record gender in the years prior to 2011. Where gender was recorded (excluding cases where gender was unknown) and the region of the case was recorded as London, the gender split for forced marriage reports over the last 3 years is as follows:

	Male	Female
2011	21%	79%
2012	11%	89%
2013	18%	82%

The data that we have is for cases where the Forced Marriage Unit has given advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in the London region. Please note that this does not reflect the actual prevalence of forced marriage across London. The figures shown will not exclusively be related to where victims reside, they may include instances such as where people were taken to London to be forced into marriage or calls that simply originated from London. Please note that we do not discuss individual cases.

<sup>1</sup> *Victims include people thought to be at potential risk of future forced marriage, those currently going through a forced marriage and those who have already been forced to marry.*

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number noted above in any future communications.

Previous [FOI responses](#) are published on gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

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.