



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Consular Directorate

WH4.3

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

www.gov.uk/government/organisations

25 November 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1037-15

Thank you for your letter asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). You asked;

‘Please provide me with copies of any documents which fall within these descriptions:

- Policy or other documents governing and/or providing guidance as to the approach to provision of consular assistance or any other assistance in relation to women detainees and/or prisoners
- Any documents related to the FCO approach to safeguarding women detainees and/or prisoners
- Equality impact assessment or any other equalities based analysis related to FCO's approach to consular assistance taking into consideration the protected characteristic of sex.
- Any other documents relating to how the FCO meets its public sector equality duties with respect to its approach in relation to women prisoners and/or detainees overseas
- Any documents which relate to the FCO's consideration and/or approach where women detainees/prisoners are not held in line with the "Bangkok Rules" (i.e. the "United Nations Rules for Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders", dated 16 March 2011, resolution 65/229.)’

Outcome of Search

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

Disclosure

The government's support to British nationals in detention overseas is not gender specific, we offer the same consular services to men and women in line with our public guidance "Support for British Nationals Abroad: A guide". Under section 21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible

to you. The information you requested is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/317474/FCO_Brits_Abroad_2014.pdf. Therefore, we hold no policy, guidance documents, or results of equality surveys carried out specifically on women in detention overseas.

The level of Consular assistance to British nationals in detention is assessed on an individual basis. We will provide more assistance for customers who need it most, the customers who are most at risk because of who they are, or where they are. Also, we will take account of any assistance customers receive from, for example, friends, family or their employer.

Identifying and assessing needs of an individual and making decisions about how best to meet them is at the heart of our Assistance Policy and Consular Strategy 2013-15.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/191053/CONS_STRAT10.pdf

As referenced in our public guide, we do state that if “you are not treated in line with internationally-accepted standards we will consider approaching local authorities” if we have your consent to do so. A country party to the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx> is legally bound under its terms. Article 10 requires States to treat all persons deprived of their liberty with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the person. Although non-binding this could include, in the case of women, non-adherence to the internationally recognised Bangkok Rules: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/BangkokRules.pdf> and we would consider raising this on behalf of a Consular customer with their consent.

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 copies of information being supplied to you continue 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.

Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer

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.