



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

**Consular Directorate**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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03 August 2015

Dear,

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0658-15**

Thank you for your email of 03 July 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*In each of the last four calendar years how many UK nations have you been informed have been jailed in France for offences relating to trying to illegally smuggle people out of France?*

### **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**

The table below gives the total number of cases currently recorded on the FCO's global consular assistance database for France where local authorities detained British Nationals for a people smuggling / human trafficking offence.

<b>Total number of cases currently recorded on the FCO's global consular assistance database for France involving British Nationals detained for a people smuggling / human trafficking offence.</b>	
2011	0
2012	0
2013	<=5
2014	20
2015*	25

\* figures up to 13 July 2015

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 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, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

The figures we have provided above are for those cases currently on our database. It is possible that the figures for years prior to 2012 are not a complete set of figures. Our current database does not automatically record the offences for which individuals are held. In order to provide this information, we have to manually search individual records. However, once a case is "filed" on our consular assistance database, after three years the case details will be deleted from the database. This is in line with Data Protection policy on not retaining personal data for longer than is necessary. We therefore cannot identify older cases which may be relevant to this inquiry.

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](http://gov.uk) in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in this letter will be removed before publishing.

Yours sincerely,

*Desk Officer*

Consular Directorate

