



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Consular Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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8 April 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0029-14

Thank you for your email of 8 January 2014 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. The number of requests for consular assistance received from UK nationals in Syria in 2013. A breakdown of those figures by the type of assistance sought.*
- 2. The number of deaths of UK nationals in Syria, of which the consular service was made aware in 2013.*

Firstly I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to your request. We have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

There were **13** requests for FCO consular assistance in Syria in 2013, of which five or fewer were deaths.

A breakdown of these cases by category is set out in the table below:

Consular Assistance in Syria 2013 (Jan-Dec 2013)	Number of cases
Child issues	<=5
Death	<=5
Missing persons	<=5
Welfare	<=5
Whereabouts	<=5
TOTAL	13

**All data taken from Consular Database Jedox – Jan 2014*

<=5: equal to, or fewer than five cases. We don't list numbers below five for Data Protection purposes.

I regret that we are unable to provide precise figures for cases when these number five or fewer in order to avoid any risk of individuals being identified. Under the Data Protection Act we are required to protect individuals' identities.

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. Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure and there is no public interest test to apply.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

Strategy & Network Department



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.