



Foreign &
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03 February 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 056-16

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I would like to request information on the current numbers of British citizens facing death sentences and on death rows around the world. In particular, I'd like to request information on:

- *The number of British citizens facing death sentences around the world broken down by country;*
- *The number of British citizens facing death sentences around the world broken down by type of offence;*
- *The number of British citizens on death rows around the world broken down by country; and*
- *The number of British citizens on death rows around the world broken down by type of offence.*

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.

The British Government takes a strong and principled stance on the death penalty, lobbying for its moratorium or removal from statute globally. It is the longstanding policy of HMG to oppose the death penalty in all circumstances and we aim to do everything we can to prevent the execution of any British national anywhere in the world.

The figures below are only for British citizens facing death sentences or on death row that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been made aware of as of 27 January 2016. We have used the terminology that you have used in your FOI request. However, please take note of the footnotes on each of the tables below that sets out our definition of each box.

British citizens facing possible death sentences, broken down by country¹	
Bangladesh	<=5

British citizens facing possible death sentences, broken down by type of offence²	
Blasphemy	<=5

¹ Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by country, who are awaiting trial or on trial, and face the possibility of a death sentence
² Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by type of offence, who are awaiting trial or on trial, and face the possibility of a death sentence

India	<=5
Kenya	<=5
Pakistan	32

Drugs	12
Kidnapping	<=5
Murder	22
Murder & Conspiracy	<=5
Murder & Terrorism	<=5

British citizens on death rows, broken down by country³	
Democratic Republic of Congo	<=5
Ethiopia	<=5
Ghana	<=5
Indonesia	<=5
Kenya	<=5
Pakistan	<=5
United States of America	<=5

British citizens on death rows, broken down by type of offence⁴	
Blasphemy	<=5
Drugs	<=5
Murder	8
Terrorism	<=5

Note: figures on 25 January 2016

Please note that where the number of reported cases is less or equal to five, these are annotated as <=5, 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.

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³ Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by country, who have been sentenced to death

⁴ Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by type of offence, who have been sentenced to death

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Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer

Consular FOI/DPA Team
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