



## Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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10 March 2015

*Dear ,*

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0252-15**

Thank you for your email of 04 March 2015 in which you asked:

- 1. The total number of robberies and attempted robberies ( with or without assault or kidnapping ) against British Nationals in central Colombo ( Colombo districts Colombo 01 through to Colombo 15), Sri Lanka reported to the British High Commission in Colombo or the Consular Division of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London from May 2010 up to the present day.*
- 2. Of all cases identified in 1. how many involved any of the assailants purporting to be or pretending to be Sri Lankan Police officers?*
- 3. Of all cases identified in 2. how many involved any of the assailants mentioning 'card fraud' ?*
- 4. Of all cases identified for both of 2. and 3. how many involved the assailants using a car?*
- 5. Of all cases identified in 2. how many involved the victims using or attempting to use a bank's cash machine immediately prior to or within a short period prior to the incident?*
- 6. The dates, times and locations of all cases identified in 2.*
- 7. The dates, times and locations of all cases identified in 3*
- 8. The dates, times and locations of all cases identified in 4.*
- 9. The dates, times and locations of all cases identified in 5.*

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have now completed our search and consultation process.

Question 1: We are unable to provide you with the exact number of British nationals who have reported to our diplomatic mission in Colombo or Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London that they were a victim of robbery or attempted robbery, as we do not record cases under a specific robbery category on our database.



We did carry out a search for cases recorded on our database under the category “Assault – General” and found 15 cases for Colombo. Of these 15 cases, four cases also recorded that a theft occurred or was attempted. It is also possible for cases to be recorded under a number of other categories. We would have to search each individual case on our database to see if we hold any information relevant to this part of your request. Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Your request as presently formulated is widely-framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances, we are not obliged under the FOIA to comply with your request.

Question 2: There was no indication of the assailants purporting to be or pretending to be Sri Lankan Police officers for those cases recorded under the category “Assault – General”.

Question 3: There was no mention of the “*card fraud*” for those cases recorded under the category “Assault – General”.

Question 4: There was no mention of a car being used for those cases recorded under the category “Assault – General”.

Question 5: There was no mention of any of the victims using or attempting to use a cash machine immediately prior to or within a short period prior to the incident for those cases recorded under the category “Assault – General”.

Questions 6 to 9: As we did not identify any cases for questions 2 to 5, we are unable to provide you with any information for this part of your request.

It is also possible to obtain our statistics on the GOV.UK website – the link for this is as follows: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/consular-data>. The information is available by month, for each of our diplomatic missions overseas.

You can also find out more about previous FOI replies published on our website at Publications - Inside Government - GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,

*Desk Officer*

Consular Directorate

