



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Consular Directorate

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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1 December 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST: FOI 1092-15

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

For the period 1 July 2014 to end of June 2015, how many Emergency Travel Documents were issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office?

Please provide a break down by applicant nationality.

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

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The statistics for the number of Emergency Travel Documents (ETD) issued by the FCO are available on the Gov.uk website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/consular-data>. The column labelled ETD contains the figures for the number of ETD's issued by each of our diplomatic missions.

In order to confirm the nationality of these applications, Consular Directorate would have to check each individual ETD application on its consular database. 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. You could consider refining your request to particular incidents in a particular country for a particular period.



It may be helpful for you to be aware that the vast majority of ETDs that we issue are for British Nationals. There are six types of British Nationality, the details of which are available at www.gov.uk/types-of-british-nationality. Additionally, in some circumstances, ETDs can also be issued to unrepresented EU and Commonwealth nationals.

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Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer

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