



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Consular Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH
Email: FOI/DPATeam.Consular@fco.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0055-15

Thank you for your email of 21 January 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Which nations in the world has the FCO received most reports of UK nationals being subjected to sexual offences during 2014?

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.

Information about the numbers of British Citizens who have reported to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) that they are victims of a sexual offence can be found by other means and is therefore exempt under section 21 of the FOIA.

This information can be found on the GOV.UK website – the link for this is as follows:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-office-consular-data-2014>

The information is available by month, for each of our diplomatic missions overseas. The specific information can be found under the columns labelled “Assault – Sexual” and “Rape”. Please note that where the number of reported cases is less than six for a diplomatic mission, these have been annotated as <= 5, to avoid the risk of identifying the individuals concerned. To release this data would constitute a breach of Data Protection Act and we are therefore withholding this information under Section 40 of the FOIA. Some of the withheld information is personal data relating to third parties. It is our view that disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) and (3) of the FOIA therefore apply. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which we think would be breached by disclosure in this case. In such circumstances, section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. We do not therefore have to apply the public interest test.



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Yours sincerely,

Consular Directorate

