



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

02 February 2017

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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 035-17

Thank you for your email of 11 January 2017 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 for British nationals<sup>1</sup> facing death sentences or on death row that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have been made aware of as of 23 January 2017.

**British nationals facing possible death sentences, broken down by country<sup>2</sup>**

**British nationals facing possible death sentences, broken down by type of offence<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> We have used the term 'British national' as that is the group to whom we provide support overseas, which forms our data set. These figures include British Citizens about whom you have asked. There are six types of British nationality.

<sup>2</sup> 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



Bangladesh	<=5
Democratic Republic of Congo	<=5
India	<=5
Kenya	<=5
Pakistan	32
United Arab Emirates	8
Uganda	<=5
United States of America	<=5

Blasphemy	<=5
Drugs	18
Kidnapping	<=5
Murder	27
Recruiting to terrorist organisations	<=5
Sexual Assault	<=5
Terrorism	<=5
Murder & Conspiracy	<=5
Murder & Kidnapping	<=5
Murder & Terrorism	<=5
Precise charges not yet clear	<=5

British nationals on death rows, broken down by country <sup>4</sup>	
Democratic Republic of Congo	<=5
Ethiopia	<=5
Ghana	<=5
Indonesia	<=5
Pakistan	<=5
United States of America	<=5

British nationals on death rows, broken down by type of offence <sup>5</sup>	
Blasphemy	<=5
Drugs	<=5
Murder	7
Terrorism	<=5

**Note:** figures on 23 January 2017

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.

<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by country, who have been sentenced to death

<sup>5</sup> Defined as the number of British citizens, broken down by type of offence, who have been sentenced to death



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 FOI/DPA Team  
Consular Directorate



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.