



## Foreign & Commonwealth Office

### Consular Directorate

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[www.gov.uk/government/organisations](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations)

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### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0440-17

Thank you for your email of 04 May asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

***“This is a FOIA request about the arrest of Britons outside the UK. I understand the FCO holds the information in the Compass Global assistance database.***

- 1. Please state the five countries in which the most Britons were arrested during***
  - a) 2017***
  - b) 2016***
  - c) 2015***
- 2. For each country and year please also provide a breakdown of the number of arrests by sub-national location (eg city or town), where this number exceeds a total that would not prejudice the personal data of any persons.”***

### **Outcome of Search**

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search and that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

### **Disclosure**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides consular support to British nationals overseas and our data includes all those to whom we provide support, which includes British Citizens and others who fall into any of the [six types of British nationality](#) as set out in our publication “Support for British nationals abroad: A Guide”. It is not mandatory for British nationals to report incidents to the FCO (or one of its diplomatic missions) so consequently the figures provided only cover incidents which have been reported to us. We also offer

Consular assistance to Commonwealth nationals in non-Commonwealth countries where they do not have any diplomatic or consular representation, and to EU nationals who are otherwise unrepresented. Some of this assistance may be included in the data that we make available.

The 5 highest volume countries where we delivered consular assistance to British nationals detained overseas are listed below, along with the Consulates who delivered the assistance:

<b>Arrest/detention</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017 (data covers until end April)</b>
<b>Spain</b>			
Alicante	206	350	99
Barcelona	50	63	9
Ibiza	100	90	<5
Las Palmas	138	166	28
Madrid	60	86	30
Malaga	164	230	47
Palma	122	201	16
Tenerife	89	193	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>			
Abu Dhabi	77	117	28
Dubai	216	281	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>France</b>			
Bordeaux	9	17	7
Marseille	27	50	7

Paris	177	155	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Thailand</b>			
Bangkok	164	225	65
Chiang Mai	8	<5	<5
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>USA</b>			
Atlanta	50	79	20
Boston	35	36	6
Chicago	77	76	24
Houston	157	154	40
Los Angeles	184	168	45
Miami	231	159	55
New York	104	100	20
Orlando	<5	<5	<5
San Francisco	63	77	29
Washington	32	22	<5
<b>Total</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>240</b>

### **Withheld information and Exemptions applied**

#### **Section 40 – Personal data**

Please note that where the number of reported cases is less than 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. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

### **Other Information**

The FCO also publish data on gov.uk each month, which includes on arrests, this can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/consular-data>

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.