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10 August 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0699-17

Thank you for your email of 22 July 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“...discover how many and which UK nationals may be held in administrative / indefinite detention or otherwise blacklisted by the government of Israel (or on behalf of a third party).”

Outcome of search

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search and I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. However, we are withholding disclosures of some of this information under the exemption detailed below.

Disclosure

Please find below the information to which you are entitled under the FOIA. The figure below is for all British nationals detained in Israel where the FCO was made aware of their detention.

The number of British nationals currently detained in Israel	<=5
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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.

UK nationals blacklisted by the Government of Israel (or on behalf of a third party). The FCO does not hold or collect this data.

