



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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Consular Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

www.gov.uk/government/organisations

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0791-16

Thank you for your email of 24 August asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

“1. How many international parental abduction and child custody cases did you deal with in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December 2015 (please provide figure for the entire year if a breakdown is not available)?

2. Of the international parental child abduction and child custody cases in 2015, how many cases involved children taken to non-Hague Convention countries?”

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

I can provide the following figures for new cases in 2015:

Child Abductions 2015						
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Cases	17	22	09	10	09	31
Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cases	13	27	16	08	21	14

Child Custody 2015						

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Cases	20	18	22	27	18	28
Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cases	24	22	17	29	23	19

Of these cases, 97 Child Custody and 101 Child Abduction cases were supported by our posts in non-Hague Convention countries.

In relation to these figures, Consular assistance is delivered globally by a network of diplomatic missions responsible for geographic areas. Our diplomatic missions record assistance cases for the region which they cover as opposed to the incident location. 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. It should also be noted that 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 where we have offered Consular assistance.

You may also find the following link to a related FCO press release to be of interest which provides statistics for financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-office-and-reunite-highlight-impact-of-child-abduction>.

Yours sincerely,

FOI / DPA Team
Consular Directorate



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