



## Foreign & Commonwealth Office

30 September 2016

### Consular Directorate

WH4.36

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

King Charles Street

London SW1A 2AH

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

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0882-16**

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

***“Please can I get the following information:***

- 1) How many new cases of parental child abduction and international custody cases were the FCO involved in for the following years: 2016 (to date), 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006. Please split the figures separately into parental child abduction cases and international custody cases.”***

### **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 as requested:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (until end July)
<b>Parental Child Abduction</b>	183	235	252	236	301	261	239	197	139
<b>Child Custody</b>	160	213	296	226	316	364	254	267	147

The statistics on our Management Information system only go back to 2008, so I have been unable to provide figures for 2006 and 2007.

It should 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. 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.

You may also find the following link to a related FCO press release to be of interest:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-office-and-reunite-highlight-impact-of-child-abduction>.

Yours sincerely,

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.