



Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

Palmer Pavilion,

Building 666,

RAF Wyton, Huntingdon,

Cambs, PE28 2EA

E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2024/15267

RFI: 133/24

Date: 6th September 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: FEMALE GENITALIA MUTILATION.

We refer to your email dated 8th August 2024 to the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP), which was acknowledged on 12th August 2024.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

I am writing to request data on recorded crimes, arrests and charges by your force for the following offences under the 2003 Female Genital Mutilation Act.

- 1. Assisting a non-UK person to mutilate the female genitalia of a British citizen overseas**
- 2. Failing to protect a girl from the risk of FGM**
- 3. Conducting FGM**
- 4. Assisting a girl to conduct FGM on herself.**

I am requesting data for the following years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first six months of 2024 (1 Jan 2024 to 30 Jun 2024).

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that the MDP does hold information in scope of your request.

1. **Assisting a non-UK person to mutilate the female genitalia of a British citizen overseas** <5
2. **Failing to protect a girl from the risk of FGM** <5
3. **Conducting FGM** <5
4. **Assisting a girl to conduct FGM on herself.** <5

The duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) does not apply by virtue of the exemption in Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement. This is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in releasing the information and carry out a public interest test. The balance of this test favours not releasing the information requested in full.

Section 31(1) is engaged as to release the information would have a detrimental impact on Law Enforcement and could be used to undermine operational policing.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office