



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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02 March 2015

Dear,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: FOI 0193-15

Thank you for your email of 21 February 2015 in which you asked:

I am trying to quantify the level of risk a tourist is exposed to by visiting Egypt. This perception that Egypt is a dangerous destination results from the unrest in the Middle East, but do you collect statistics which quantify 1) the proportion of British tourists which are victims of accidents 2) the proportion of British tourists who are killed or injured due to violent crime. I would like to have figures for 2007 and 2014. Do you have a breakdown of these figures by region within Egypt?

We have now completed our search and consultation process and I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information relevant to your request.

The table below shows the total number of cases reported to the FCO and recorded on our database from the period 2008 to 2014, for all accident categories. The FCO can record cases on our database under a number of different categories of accident. The FCO does not hold statistics prior to 2008. We are unable to break the figures down by region. However, we can provide the figures by the diplomatic mission.

Number of reported cases - Accident *							
Diplomatic Mission	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Alexandria	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5
Cairo	20	9	6	<=5	10	6	<=5
Hurghada	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5
Luxor	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5
Sharm El Sheikh	<=5	16	<=5	<=5	11	<=5	<=5

* Compass Attribute: Death - Accidental, Death - Road, Accident - Air, Accident - General, Accident - Marine, Accident - Road, Accident - Ski



We are also unable to provide you with the exact number of British nationals reported to the FCO and recorded on our database as killed or injured because they were a victim of a violent crime. We are not able to provide the figures requested because our database does not store this information in a way that is easily searchable. We would have to search each individual case on our database to see if we hold any information relevant to this part of your request, which would exceed the appropriate cost limit. Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For central government the appropriate limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Your request as presently formulated is widely-framed and I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information. In these circumstances, we are not obliged under the FOIA to comply with your request.

We do not record cases under any specific category, which would make it easy to identify if a British national was killed because of a violent crime. We can record cases under the “Death – Murder” category, which may include the above, but we are unable to provide you with the exact figure because the total number of cases is less than six for Egypt.

Where the total number of cases is less than six we withhold the exact figure 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. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

We are unable to provide you with the proportion of British tourists who are victims of accidents, or killed or injured because of a violent crime, as the FCO does not maintain a record of the number of British Nationals who travel overseas.

It is also possible to obtain our statistics on the GOV.UK website – the link for this is as follows: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/consular-data>. The information is available by month, for each of our diplomatic missions overseas.

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Yours sincerely,

Desk Officer

Consular Directorate

