



Home Office

Immigration Enforcement
FOI & PQ Team
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Giles Sheldrick
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www.gov.uk/home-office

4 June 2014

FOI 31610

Dear Mr Sheldrick

Thank you for your e-mail of 6 May, in which you ask:

- 1. In past two-and-a-half years (that is 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date) how many suspected immigration offenders have been arrested? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.*
- 2. In past two-and-a-half years (that is 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date) how many official operations (by that I mean involving the Home Office, police and councils) have there been to remove suspected illegal immigrants? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.*
- 3. Relating to question No.2 where were they from and how many were from each country? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.*
- 4. How many of those arrested have been "encountered" by the authorities before? That is, how many of those removed from the UK have returned here? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.*
- 5. In past two-and-a-half years (that is 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date) how many foreign nationals with no permission to be in the UK have been found to be here? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.*
- 6. Those who have been removed cannot return for 12-months. But how many have done this since this regulation came into force on January 1 (2014)?*
- 7. The Home Office has previously said some Eastern European migrants removed from flashpoints like Marble Arch and Park Lane in London have been sent back on planes and buses: To date, how much has this repatriation exercise cost and who has footed the bill?*

Your query has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We are able to disclose some of the information that you have requested, but not all. This is because some information is not available or it is exempt from disclosure. An explanation of what we can and cannot release and why, is set out in the attached Annex A.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference FOI 31610. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.



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Information Access Team
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
E-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

If you request an internal review, that review will be carried out by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Immigration Enforcement FOI & PQ Team



Questions 1 & 2

In past two-and-a-half years (that is 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date) how many suspected immigration offenders have been arrested? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.

In past two-and-a-half years (that is 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date) how many official operations (by that I mean involving the Home Office, police and councils) have there been to remove suspected illegal immigrants? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.

Table 1 - Enforcement visits and arrests, January 2012 to March 2014

	2012	2013	2014 (Jan-Mar)	Total
Visits	14,194	18,163	5,013	37,370
Arrests	9,269	15,098	4,075	28,442

- (1) The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.
- (2) Figures relate to enforcement visits between 1 January 2012 and 31 March 2014, and arrests made on those visits, recorded on the National Operations Database (NOD).
- (3) Figures for arrests relate to counts of arrests made so do not relate to individuals. An individual may have been arrested more than once in the time period shown.
- (4) Data extracted 19 May 2014.

Question 3

Relating to question No.2 where were they from and how many were from each country? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.

Table 2 - Enforcement visit arrests by nationality, January 2012 to March 2014

Nationality	2012	2013	2014 (Jan-Mar)	Total
Afghanistan	253	457	87	797
Albania	106	290	91	487
Algeria	83	151	39	273
America	11	22	9	42
Angola	3	10	3	16
Argentina	1		2	3
Armenia	1	2		3
Australia	5	11	3	19
Azerbaijan	3	3		6



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Bahamas	1			1
Bahrain	1		1	2
Bangladesh	1,316	2,066	558	3,940
Barbados	1	3		4
Belarus	2	3	2	7
Belgium		1	2	3
Benin	5		2	7
Bermuda	2			2
Bhutan	1	1	1	3
Bolivia	41	29	16	86
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2			2
Botswana	11	6	2	19
Bouvet Islands			1	1
Brazil	169	188	38	395
Bulgaria	1	32	3	36
Burundi	3	3		6
Cameroon	29	50	17	96
Canada	2	8	2	12
Cape Verde	1			1
Chad		2	2	4
Chile	4	2	1	7
China	569	917	273	1,759
Colombia	30	17	2	49
Congo	2	5	2	9
Croatia	3	1		4
Cuba	1	2	2	5
Cyprus Turkish Republic	1	1		2
Czech Republic	6	21	6	33
Democratic Republic of Congo		7	8	15
Denmark	1	1		2
Djibouti	1			1
Dominica	2	2		4
Dominican Republic		3	2	5
Ecuador	9	18	1	28
Egypt	32	53	17	102
Eritrea	13	14	8	35
Estonia		2	1	3
Ethiopia	5	10	1	16
Fiji	3	2		5
France	6	10	2	18
French Polynesia	1			1



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Gambia	59	66	12	137
Georgia	17	13	2	32
Germany	2	6	2	10
Ghana	185	233	97	515
Greece		4	3	7
Grenada	6	2	1	9
Guatemala	13			13
Guinea	3	7	2	12
Guinea-Bissau	1			1
Guyana	1	3	2	6
Haiti	1	1		2
Honduras	2	5	2	9
Hong Kong	8	5	2	15
Hungary	1	5	12	18
Iceland		1	2	3
India	2,168	2,970	637	5,775
Indonesia	3	14	4	21
Iran	25	79	35	139
Iraq	21	61	18	100
Irish Republic	1		1	2
Israel	3	13	1	17
Italy	3	5	5	13
Ivory Coast	16	19	7	42
Jamaica	56	119	39	214
Japan	5	8		13
Jordan	8	2	1	11
Kenya	24	39	16	79
Korea North	3	2	1	6
Korea South	10	8		18
Kosovo	14	18	8	40
Kuwait	6	3	3	12
Kyrgyzstan	2	7	2	11
Laos		1		1
Latvia	1	21	19	41
Lebanon	6	2		8
Lesotho		1	2	3
Liberia	6	4		10
Libya	2	33	12	47
Lithuania	10	73	27	110
Macau			1	1
Macedonia	1	2	1	4



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Madagascar			1	1
Malawi	64	73	13	150
Malaysia	97	88	26	211
Maldives		1		1
Mali	1	3		4
Malta		1		1
Mauritania			1	1
Mauritius	43	101	24	168
Mexico	5	5	6	16
Moldova	6			6
Mongolia	13	26	4	43
Montenegro	1	1		2
Morocco	11	29	13	53
Mozambique		4		4
Myanmar	4	10	2	16
Namibia	20	13	5	38
Nepal	148	182	51	381
Netherlands	5	4	1	10
New Zealand	4	1	2	7
Niger	1	2	1	4
Nigeria	547	827	190	1,564
Oman			1	1
Pakistan	1,811	3,450	948	6,209
Palestine	13	11	3	27
Paraguay		1		1
Peru	3	5	1	9
Philippines	118	185	50	353
Poland	5	203	48	256
Portugal	2	8	4	14
Romania	33	348	145	526
Russia	14	16	2	32
Rwanda	4	2		6
Saudi Arabia	1		1	2
Senegal	6	11	5	22
Serbia	2	3		5
Seychelles	1			1
Sierra Leone	16	27	11	54
Singapore	1			1
Slovak Republic	3	32	10	45
Somalia	7	10	12	29



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South Africa	43	43	16	102
Spain		5	3	8
Sri Lanka	300	342	98	740
St Kitts & Nevis	1	1		2
St Lucia	3	7	2	12
St Vincent & the Grenadines	4	1	1	6
Sudan	11	26	8	45
Swaziland	2	2	2	6
Sweden	1			1
Syria	7	20	12	39
Taiwan	3	3	2	8
Tanzania	17	20	5	42
Thailand	39	34	7	80
Togo	1	2		3
Tonga	1			1
Trinidad & Tobago	7	10		17
Tunisia	7	19	6	32
Turkey	98	140	33	271
Turkmenistan	9	9	2	20
Uganda	39	48	11	98
Ukraine	46	50	12	108
United Arab Emirates		1		1
Uzbekistan	25	26	2	53
Venezuela	1	3	1	5
Vietnam	55	199	35	289
Yemen	4	1		5
Zambia	10	13	5	28
Zimbabwe	25	52	16	93
Stateless or not recorded	32	41	20	93
Total	9,237	15,082	4,066	28,385

- (1) The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.
- (2) Figures relate to arrests made on enforcement visits between 1 January 2012 and 31 March 2014 recorded on the National Operations Database (NOD).
- (3) Figures relate to counts of arrests made so do not relate to individuals. An individual may have been arrested more than once in the time period shown.
- (4) Data extracted 19 May 2014.



Question 4

How many of those arrested have been "encountered" by the authorities before? That is, how many of those removed from the UK have returned here? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempted from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

Unfortunately we do not readily hold the information that you have requested, and to do so would require a manual search of individual records. We are therefore unable to comply with your request because the cost of assessing the information that would far exceed the £600 FOI cost threshold.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

Question 5

In the past two-and-a-half years (that is 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date) how many foreign nationals with no permission to be in the UK have been found to be here? I would like a breakdown for each year, please.

We are not able to provide an answer to question 5 under 'no permission', because we do not record the information you are referring to in this way. We do record the data in the form of "immigration offence committed", and have provided a total under this heading for the periods you have requested. This is as per our records on National Operations Database (NOD).

Table 3 – Enforcement visit arrests by offence committed, January 2012 to March 2014

2012	2013	2014 (Jan-Mar)	Total
9,269	15,098	4,075	28,442



Question 6

Those who have been removed cannot return for 12-months. But how many have done this since this regulation came into force on January 1 (2014)?

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempted from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

Unfortunately, to extract this information we would need to undertake a manual search of individual records. We are therefore unable to comply with your request because the cost of assessing the information would far exceed the £600 FOI cost threshold.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

Question 7

The Home Office has previously said some Eastern European migrants removed from flashpoints like Marble Arch and Park Lane in London have been sent back on planes and buses: To date, how much has this repatriation exercise cost and who has footed the bill?

Unfortunately we are unable to provide you with this information as it is excluded under section 12 and section 43(2) of the Freedom of information Act.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempted from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

We are not able to disclose the information that you requested, as the Home Office does not record the number of flights/coach trips in a standard, reportable format. In order to collate this data we would need to investigate each individual case, and we



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have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would far exceed the £600 cost threshold.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

However, if your question was refined to meet the cost limit, we would not be able to communicate this information due to the commercial nature of the information you have requested. This is exempt under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This allows us to exempt information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any persons.

The use of this exemption also requires us to consider whether in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the section 43(2) exemption stated above outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

We have considered the public interest there may be in the circumstances of this case in disclosing the information to you. There will be a public interest in disclosure to ensure that there is full transparency in the Home Office's use of public funds and in particular to maintain the Home Office's accountability to taxpayers. Disclosure of this information would also enable the public to assess whether or not the Home Office is getting best value for money in terms of its ticketing contracts.

We have also considered the public interest there may be in maintaining the exemption to the duty to communicate to you the information you have requested. There is a public interest in the Home Office being able to secure returns flights/bus tickets that represent value for money and anything that would undermine this is not in the public interest. Value for money can be best obtained where there is a healthy competitive environment, coupled with the protection of Government's commercial relationships with industry, were this not the case, there would be a risk that:

- Companies would be discouraged from dealing with the public sector, fearing disclosure of information that may damage them commercially, or
- Companies would withhold information where possible, making the choice of the best contractor more uncertain as it would be based on limited and censored data.

We have therefore concluded that the balance of the public interests identified lies in favour of maintaining the section 43(2) exemption. This is because the overall public interest lies in ensuring that the Home Office's ability to protect its commercial competitiveness is not prejudiced.