



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Our reference: FOI 1016-09/CONS 101-09

14 January 2010

Ms Tania Berlow

By e-mail: [request-24270-7b0bcb01@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-24270-7b0bcb01@whatdotheyknow.com)

*Dear Ms Berlow,*

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST**

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 December in which you requested the following information relating to forced marriages under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA or Act). Your request stated:

*"I would like to know how many cases have been recorded of girls or boys who have been forced into a marriage and removed from the state school system by means of deregistration in order to home educate?"*

*Please if there are any cases, disaggregate the number per Local Authority involved."*

The joint Home Office-Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) holds data about forced marriage cases reported to them, but no accurate information specifically relating to those involving the removal of a child from the state education system. The nature of forced marriage means that cases often go unreported. However, FMU are working with governmental and non governmental partners to build the best statistical picture possible.

Of the cases of potential forced marriage referred to FMU the following proportion related to persons under 18:

2008- 29%  
2009- 22.5%

You may be interested in the attached report on forced marriage and responses to it funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families in July 2009 which covers some of the issues raised in your request.

If you have any queries about this letter, or are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint, you should write to Rosaleen Wotton at the above address within 40 days of this reply. If necessary, we will conduct an internal review of how we handled your request. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaint procedure provided by the FCO. The ICO can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

*Yours sincerely,*

**Consular Directorate**  
WH4.2 King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2PA

Tel: 020 7 008 0921  
Fax: 020 7008 0426  
[www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)  
E-mail: [Louise.Edwards@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Louise.Edwards@fco.gov.uk)

[signed]

Louise Edwards  
Strategy, Communications and Training Group