



Immigration  
Enforcement

Immigration Enforcement  
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M Esslemont  
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[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Monday 5 August 2019

Dear M Esslemont,

**Re: Freedom of Information request – 54439**

Thank you for your email of 7 July, in which you ask for the number of potential victims of trafficking who returned voluntarily between the period of 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2018 who were at any point held in immigration detention. Your full request can be found at **Annex A**.

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We are now in a position to provide a full reply to your request.

The data you have requested is set out at **Annex B**. The notes to this annex set out the criteria by which the data has been extracted. Please note that the data has been taken from a live operational database, is subject to change and has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

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 [foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference **54439**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response. As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

**Immigration Enforcement Secretariat**  
[ImmigrationEnforcementFOIPQ@HomeOffice.gov.uk](mailto:ImmigrationEnforcementFOIPQ@HomeOffice.gov.uk)

## **Annex A**

### **Re: Freedom of Information request – 54439 (M Esslemont)**

From: M Esslemont [mailto:request-587648-ae5d73a@whatdotheyknow.com]  
Sent: 07 July 2019 18:12  
To: FOI Requests  
Subject: 54439 - Freedom of Information request - Voluntary removals of potential victims of trafficking

Dear Home Office,

Thank you for the information provided in comparable requests regarding detention and removal of potential trafficking victims (both voluntary and enforced).

Please provide the number of potential victims of trafficking who were voluntarily returned between the period of 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2018 who were at any point held in immigration detention (Immigration Removal Centres). Please disaggregate this figure according to year (2016, 2017 and 2018).

Yours faithfully,  
M Esslemont



## Immigration Enforcement

### Annex B

#### Re: Freedom of Information request – 54439 (M Esslemont)

Please provide the number of potential victims of trafficking who were voluntarily returned between the period of 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2018 who were at any point held in immigration detention (Immigration Removal Centres). Please disaggregate this figure according to year (2016, 2017 and 2018).

Our records indicate that...

**Table 1 - Number of Voluntary Returns between 01/01/2016 and 31/12/2018 of individuals whose latest NRM case outcome prior to return was a positive Reasonable Grounds (RG) decision, and who were detained in an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) at any point before return**

<u>Year of Return</u>	<u>Number of Voluntary Returns</u>
2016	4
2017	2
2018	23

#### **Notes**

**These statistics have been taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.**

Data extracted on 17/07/2019

Data shows the number of Voluntary Returns. Individuals may have multiple returns during this period, therefore the figures presented may not reflect the number of people returned.

Voluntary Returns have been included only where the most recent trafficking outcome on or before the return date was a positive Reasonable Grounds (RG).

The trafficking data used has been restricted up to 31/12/2018 only, therefore the RG decision may have been given a significant period of time before the return date.

The period of detention is at any point before the return date, therefore may be a significant period of time before either being referred into the NRM and/or the return date.

Please note that these figures do not show the number of Potential Victims of Trafficking that have been held in immigration detention, as the figures may include individuals where the event(s) which instigated the NRM referral occurred after their release.

Data includes individuals detained in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) only.