



Home Office

**Performance, Assurance
& Governance Directorate**
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

0207 035 4848
(switchboard)

www.gov.uk

C Williams
request-489489-05efeb44@whatdotheyknow.com

28 June 2018

Dear C Williams,

Freedom of Information request – 48909

Thank you for your email of 5 June in which you have requested information relating to do with risks and hazards of becoming a British government spy.

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), and can be viewed in full in the **Annex**.

We can neither confirm nor deny whether the Home Office holds any information related to your request, pursuant to the exemption at section 23(5) of the FOIA.

This exemption is concerned with information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters.

Because this exemption is what is termed an 'absolute' exemption, there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test affecting its application.

This response should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested is or is not held by the Home Office.

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, quoting reference 48909. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

R Taylor
Information Rights Team

Annex

"From: C. Williams [<mailto:request-489489-05efeb44@whatdotheyknow.com>]

Sent: 05 June 2018 17:33

To: FOI Requests

Subject: 48909 - Freedom of Information request - Risks of Injury whist in Government

Employment: Covery Human Intelligence Sources

Dear Home Office,

This FOI relates to the risks and hazards of becoming a British government spy. I am considering responding to the ongoing recruitment campaigns mounted by these various agencies but would first like to learn about the risks one faces in doing this type of work. Therefore I would like to get some hard data on deaths and injuries to those agents in service. To clarify, the persons I am interested in are the following:

'Agents': by this I mean covert human intelligence sources (CHIS) used by public authorities, so, those persons directly employed by MI5; MI6, SIS, British Military Intelligence etc., or those who are working for these types of organisations (i.e. have been tasked by a public authority) in any other capacity (hence they may not all be on the payroll) in some temporary, voluntary, 'induced' or coerced capacity, or under their direction.

Please can you tell me:

1. How many of your spies have been killed in the last 10 years directly or indirectly as a result of working for said organisations?
 - a. Please compile these figures by organisation.
2. How many of your spies have been seriously injured in the last 10 years directly or indirectly as a result of working for said organisations? (note, by 'serious injury' I mean: a personal injury which results in death; dismemberment; significant disfigurement; a fracture; loss of a fetus; permanent loss of use of a body organ, member, function or system; permanent consequential limitation of use of a body organ or member; significant limitation of use of a body function or system; or a medically determined injury or impairment of a non-permanent nature which prevents the injured person from performing substantially all of the material acts which constitute such person's usual and customary daily activities for not less than ninety days during the one hundred eighty days immediately following the occurrence of the injury or impairment.
 - a. Please compile these figures by organisation.

Yours faithfully,

C. Williams"