



Home Office

Strategy & Assurance Group  
Bedford Point  
34-35 Dingwall Road  
Croydon  
CR9 2EF  
T +44 (0)20 8603 8078  
F +44 (0)20 8603 8030  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Lydia Medland  
Access Info Europe  
By email

30 April 2013

Dear Ms Medland,

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 March, in which you ask for information on anyone under the age of 18 held in immigration detention during the years 2010, 2011 and 2012. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We believe that some of the information you have requested is already reasonably accessible to you. Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts the Home Office from having to provide you with this information, because it is already in the public domain. Information on people entering detention, solely under Immigration Act powers, in immigration removal centres, short term holding facilities and pre departure accommodation (excluding those in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants) is collected quarterly. This is provided in the latest release, Immigration Statistics October - December 2012 on the statistical publication page on GOV.UK: [migrationstatistics](http://www.gov.uk/migrationstatistics). Data tables dt.01 and dt.03, accessible via the link below, provides information on people entering detention, including those under the age of 18:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/143952/detention1-q4-2012-tabs.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/143952/detention1-q4-2012-tabs.xls)

I am able to disclose the following additional information concerning children held in holding rooms at ports as well as those held in prison mother and baby units (MBU) or young offender institutions (YOI):

|                           | <b>2010</b>         | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b>       |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>Port holding rooms</b> | No information held | 192         | 113               |
| <b>YOI</b>                | No information held | 0           | 2 (unaccompanied) |
| <b>Prison MBU</b>         | No information held | 0           | 1 (accompanied)   |

Figures in the above table 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.

Data provided on port holding rooms relate to persons under the age of 18 held in these facilities for over 12 hours upon arrival in the United Kingdom. Information on whether these children were unaccompanied or part of a family group is not available.

I hope that this information meets your requirements. I would like to assure you that we have provided you with all relevant information that the Home Office holds.

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 26828. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team  
Home Office  
Ground Floor, Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
e-mail: [REDACTED]

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed 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

Sheri Yusuf  
Detention Policy Team