

UK Government sends the EU 9,700 criminal records of UK citizens

Key Findings

- Under the Criminal Records Exchange there were **9,732 requests to the UK for records** between 2006 and 2013, which were made by 34 countries
 - **26 EU countries, 8 non-EU countries**¹
- Of these, **9,689 were granted**, meaning the UK has **granted 99% of requests**

EU countries

- Under the EU Criminal Records Exchange, **26 EU countries** requested records a total of **9,706 times**²
- Of these, **9,667 were granted**, meaning the UK has **granted to 99% of EU requests**
- The number of requests for information peaked in 2012, with 4,458 requests being made
- **Top three requesting countries:**
 - **Germany** made 4019 requests and 4008 were granted to
 - **France** made 1491 requests and 1489 were granted to
 - **Czech Republic** made 683 requests and 681 were granted to

Non-EU countries

Note: No information was available for the years 2010 and 2011 due to another agency being responsible for the requests at the time

- **8 non-EU countries** requested records a total of **26 times**
- Of these, **22 were granted** meaning the UK has **granted 84%** of non-EU requests
- The most requests were received by **Norway** (10 requests), all of which were granted

¹ Criminal Record Exchange within the EU takes place within the framework of Council Decision 2005/876/JHA. A Framework decision (2009/315/JHA) made the exchange mandatory from April 2012

EU Countries

Country	No. of requests made									Total	No. of requests responded to									Total	No of requests rejected
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2006		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013				
Austria	1	15	18	12	59	30	350	99	584	1	11	18	12	59	30	350	99	580	7		
Belgium	1	5	2	3	12	16	13	5	57	1	3	2	3	12	16	13	5	55	2		
Bulgaria	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	7	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	7	0		
Cyprus	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	1		
Czech Republic	0	5	6	16	27	16	476	137	683	0	5	6	14	27	16	476	137	681	2		
Denmark	0	4	1	3	0	293	197	0	498	0	4	1	2	0	293	197	0	497	1		
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	5	0		
Finland	0	0	0	2	0	1	8	7	18	0	0	0	2	0	1	8	7	18	0		
France	1	26	7	8	11	517	785	136	1491	1	24	7	8	11	517	785	136	1489	2		
Germany	7	40	68	49	77	1472	1847	459	4019	7	32	66	48	77	1472	1847	459	4008	11		
Greece	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Hungary	0	6	4	3	3	3	12	4	35	0	6	4	2	3	3	12	4	34	1		
Ireland	5	8	20	54	58	143	204	101	593	5	7	20	51	58	143	204	101	589	4		
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9	0		
Latvia	1	0	1	2	11	6	17	14	52	1	0	1	2	11	6	17	14	52	0		
Lithuania	1	1	4	15	7	19	23	44	114	1	0	4	15	7	19	23	44	113	1		
Luxembourg	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	6	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	6	0		
Malta	0	0	2	0	3	4	1	0	10	0	0	2	0	3	4	1	0	10	0		
Netherlands	1	21	26	37	39	51	97	122	394	1	19	26	37	39	51	97	122	392	2		
Poland	0	3	9	13	60	92	285	92	554	0	0	9	12	60	92	285	92	550	4		
Portugal	0	1	5	4	2	5	2	1	20	0	0	5	4	2	5	2	1	19	1		

Romania	0	0	11	14	9	27	55	10	126	0	0	11	14	9	27	55	10	126	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	6	0
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0
Spain	11	33	26	65	48	123	71	18	395	11	31	26	64	48	123	71	18	392	3
Sweden	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	16	21	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	16	21	0
Total	30	169	211	309	433	2827	4458	1269	9706	30	142	209	299	433	2827	4458	1269	9667	42

Non-EU Countries

Note: No information was available for the years 2010 and 2011 due to another agency being responsible for the requests at the time

Country	No. of requests made								Total	No. of requests responded to								Total	No of requests rejected
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013		
Albania	0	0	0	0			1	0	1	0	0	0	0			1	0	1	0
Australia	0	1	0	0			0	0	1	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	1
Israel	0	1	0	0			0	0	1	0	1	0	0			0	0	1	0
Lichtenstein	0	0	0	4			1	1	6	0	0	0	4			1	1	6	0
Norway	0	0	2	0			2	6	10	0	0	2	0			2	6	10	0
Serbia	0	0	0	1			0	0	1	0	0	0	1			0	0	1	0
Turkey	0	3	0	0			1	0	4	0	0	0	0			1	0	1	3
Switzerland	1	0	0	0			0	1	2	1	0	0	0			0	1	2	0
Total	1	5	2	5			5	8	26	1	1	2	5	0	0	5	8	22	4

Freedom of Information Request

In February 2013 we requested information from ACPO under the Freedom of Information Act relating to the UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records and the Non-European Union Exchange Criminal Records. We requested the following information:

Please provide me with the answers to the following questions, please break down the information by country or organisation:

1. How many times has an country or organisation requested information of the previous convictions of UK citizens?
2. How many of the above requests have been complied with?

I request that the time period covered is 1st January 2009 – 1st January 2013.

The table below shows how I would like the information to be presented.

Country	No. of requests made					No. of requests granted				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<i>e.g. France</i>	0	2	12	15	11	0	2	1	1	0
<i>e.g. Europol</i>	5	78	4	2	34	1	2	3	1	1

About Big Brother Watch

Big Brother Watch was set up to challenge policies that threaten our privacy, our freedoms and our civil liberties, and to expose the true scale of the surveillance state.

Founded in 2009, we have produced unique research exposing the erosion of civil liberties in the UK, looking at the dramatic expansion of surveillance powers, the growth of the database state and the misuse of personal information.

We campaign to give individuals more control over their personal data, and hold to account those who fail to respect our privacy, whether private companies, government departments or local authorities.

Protecting individual privacy and defending civil liberties, Big Brother Watch is a campaign group for the digital age.

If you are a journalist and you would like to contact Big Brother Watch, including outside office hours, please call +44 (0) 7505 448925 (24hrs). You can also email press@bigbrotherwatch.org.uk for written enquiries.

Email: info@bigbrotherwatch.org.uk

Mail:

Big Brother Watch

55 Tufon Street

London SW1P 3QL

www.bigbrotherwatch.org.uk