



Press Release – 27th September 2010 – <http://www.ukvisaandimmigration.co.uk>

A staggering 60,000 passports reported lost or stolen abroad in a year

Between April 2009 and March 2010 the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) replaced more than 279,000 passports that had been reported lost or stolen. Of that total, over 60,000 British passports were reported lost or stolen abroad. A total of 2.2 million passports have been replaced since 2002.

A sample of 1,553 people were asked if they always stored their passport in a safe place. 83% of people who responded said yes. 74% of those who responded between the ages of 16 and 24 agreed.

Travellers are being urged to take two photocopies of their passport and take one copy abroad with them, but keep it separate from their passport, and keep another copy at home.

If a passport has been lost or stolen it should be reported to the local police and the British Consulate should be informed. Once back in the UK it should again be reported to the police and to the IPS. They will then be able to log the passport details and cancel it on the system. The IPS will then inform law enforcement agencies to stop the risk of the passport being misused.

The cost of a replacement adult passport is £77.50 for standard service. For the one week fast track service it will cost £112.50. The cost of a replacement child passport is £49 for standard service. For the one week fast track service it will cost £96.50.

The IPS has told people to think about where to keep their passport at home and abroad because for a fraudster, a passport is an excellent piece of documentation.

By Jade Coleman