



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála

Oifig na bPasanna, Teach Knockmaun, 42-47 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach,
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 TN83

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Passport Office, Knockmaun House, 42-47 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2 D02 TN83

Mr. Michael Goodier.

Ref: FOI/Req/2019/120

9th April, 2019.

Dear Mr. Goodier,

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, in which you requested the following:

Please could I have the number of UK citizens applying for Irish citizenship (APS2 form) for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 broken down by the UK postal town/city they put on the contact details part of the form.

Please don't provide full addresses as this would be personally identifying information - just the postal town.

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 21th March 2019.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. By way of explanation the APS2 form is the form applicants use to apply for a passport. It is not a form for applying for Irish citizenship. In order to meet the requirements of the Passports Act 2008, each applicant must demonstrate their Irish citizenship in their application. Entitlement to Irish citizenship is governed by Irish law and in particular the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956, as amended. Irish citizens are not prohibited from holding foreign citizenship in addition to their Irish citizenship. The Passport Office does not compile data on any other citizenships that an applicant may hold.

Tracking of passport applications is in general carried out against channel of application rather than by other metrics, including country of origin. The Passport Office has no records of applications for Irish passports made by country or town/city of origin. As a result we have no record on the number of applications for Irish passports made by U.K. citizens by town/city and therefore your request falls for refusal under Section 15 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 which states that an FOI request may be refused if:

‘the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken’

Bearing this in mind, the following general breakdown of applications will give the available detail on the total number of passport applications received from Britain in 2018 as 87,544. Figures for applications from Northern Ireland and Britain for the six years (January to December) from 2012-

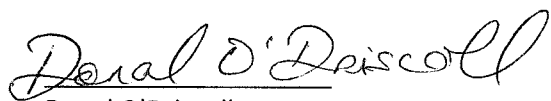
2017 are available publicly on the passport website under Passport Statistics at <https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/faqs/statistics/>

Right of Appeal

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so in writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 DX45 or by email to foi@dfa.ie. A fee applies for an appeal for access to non-personal information; the level of this fee has been set at €30. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01-4082857.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donal O'Driscoll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Donal O'Driscoll
Passport Office.