

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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/18/220

Ms. Rachel Lavin,
Right to Know.

29th August, 2018.

Dear Ms. Lavin,

I refer to your request which you have made under the freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2014 for access to records held by this department, as follows:

1. All data pertaining to the number of applications for passports received by the DFA and the number of applications successfully granted since January 2015, including the nature of passport application (citizens through, parents or descent for example) and the applicant's country of residence.
2. All data pertaining to the number of applications for citizenship through naturalisation and the number of applications successfully granted since January 2015 including the applicant's country of origin.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 14 August, 2018.

As agreed during our telephone conversation of 15 August, for part 1 of your request, the passport service will endeavour to provide the information you seek but it is not possible to create a single report with the information broken down as requested. For part 2 of your request seeking information on the number of Irish citizens who have claimed Irish citizenship through naturalisation it was agreed that you will need to submit a request to the Department of Justice.

I am the deciding officer in the case. I wish to inform you that I have undertaken a search for records with regard to part 1 of your request. I have identified records that fall within the scope of your request and I have made a decision to grant these records as following:

Table 1 -The number of applications for passports received and the number issued since 1 January, 2015 to 31 July, 2018 by entitlement to citizenship.

Entitlement	Received	Issued
BORN IN IRELAND	2,388,358	2,342,721
BORN ABROAD OF IRISH PARENTS	248,686	245,659
FOREIGN BIRTH REGISTRATION	59,691	59,120
NATURALISATION	55,440	54,909
POST NUPTIAL	11,001	10,849
BORN ABROAD AND ADOPTED UNDER IRISH LAW	4,457	4,416

All applications are subject to the terms of the Passports Act, 2008 (“the Act”), which provides a legal basis for the various policies and practices which are applied by the Passport Service in the issue of passports. Irish citizens are entitled to be issued with a passport, subject to the requirements of the Act. There is provision in the Act to refuse a person a passport. The most common grounds to refuse a person a passport would be in cases where:

- (a) The person’s entitlement to Irish citizenship has not been demonstrated;
- (b) The person’s identify has not been satisfactorily established;
- (c) The passport application is fraudulent or misleading;
- (d) In the case of children the consent for the issue of a passport by the legal guardians has not been provided.

The Act requires the Minister to write to the person, who is being refused a passport, and cite the reason(s) for passport refusal. The Minister is obliged to offer a period of time to the person to make any representations and/or provide additional information that may be relevant to the proposed course of action. These requirements are important as they protect the right of Irish citizens to obtain and hold a passport for travel, subject to the requirements of the Act.

We do not compile data on the number of passport applications that are rejected. In general the number of passport applications that do not result in a passport being issued is small.

In the case of the table above, the differences between the numbers of applications received and passports issued is accounted for by pending applications for which further information has been requested.

Applications are not generally measured by country of residence, however, it is possible to infer the country of residence by the channel of application for Ireland, Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

From 1 January 2015 to 31 July 2018, the Passport Service has received 2,019,376 applications from citizens resident in Ireland of which 1,980,233 were issued, 272,739 applications from citizens resident in Northern Ireland of which 256,631 were issued and 254,981 applications from citizens resident in Britain of which 232,343 were issued.

Tracking of passport applications is in general carried out against channel of application rather than by other metrics, including country of origin. Bearing this in mind, the following general breakdown of applications will give the available detail on the volume of applications received and issued since 1 January 2015 to 31 July, 2018 outside of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain.

Passport applications from persons outside the island of Ireland and Britain may be submitted either via the online passport renewal service at <https://www.dfa.ie/passportonline> or through the network of Irish Embassies and Consulates worldwide and a separate table is included below for the applications made through each of these channels.

Table 2: Overseas applications received and issued via the online system since the Online Passport Application service was launched in March 2017 to 1 July, 2018, a breakdown is included based on the applicant's postal address.

Country	Received	Issued
AFGHANISTAN	4	3
ALGERIA	2	2
ANDORRA	5	4
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	1	1
ARGENTINA	49	48
ARUBA	1	1
AUSTRALIA	5,211	5104
AUSTRIA	124	123
BAHAMAS	5	5
BAHRAIN	23	20
BANGLADESH	5	3
BARBADOS	11	10
BELARUS	4	4
BELGIUM	346	343
BELIZE	2	2
BERMUDA	36	36
BOLIVIA	2	2
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	3	3
BOTSWANA	6	6
BRAZIL	57	55
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	3	3
BULGARIA	30	29
CAMBODIA	14	14
CAMEROON	1	0
CANADA	2,136	2097
CANARY ISLANDS	31	30
CAYMAN ISLANDS	45	44
CHILE	20	17
CHINA	85	79
COLOMBIA	20	20
COOK ISLANDS	2	1
COSTA RICA	4	4
CROATIA	9	7
CYPRUS	40	39
CZECH REPUBLIC	63	62

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	1	0
DENMARK	147	144
DOMINICA	1	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2	2
EAST TIMOR	1	1
ECUADOR	3	2
EGYPT	35	31
ERITREA	1	0
ESTONIA	8	7
ETHIOPIA	1	1
FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)	1	1
FIJI	3	3
FINLAND	64	61
FRANCE	994	969
GEORGIA	3	3
GERMANY	1,059	1033
GHANA	2	2
GIBRALTAR	15	15
GREECE	54	54
GUERNSEY	31	29
GUINEA-BISSAU	1	1
HONDURAS	4	4
HONG KONG	131	128
HUNGARY	32	31
ICELAND	4	4
INDIA	49	49
INDONESIA	15	13
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF	1	1
ISLE OF MAN	107	104
ISRAEL	56	55
ITALY	300	292
JAMAICA	2	2
JAPAN	122	120
JORDAN	18	16
KENYA	37	35
KOSOVO	2	2
KUWAIT	7	5
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	3	3
LATVIA	9	9
LEBANON	6	6
LIBYA	2	2
LIECHTENSTEIN	1	1

LITHUANIA	1	1
LUXEMBOURG	159	158
MACAU	4	4
MALAWI	5	5
MALAYSIA	43	40
MALDIVES	1	1
MALTA	49	47
MARTINIQUE	1	1
MAURITIUS	20	18
MEXICO	69	65
MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF	1	1
MONACO	10	10
MOROCCO	1	1
MOZAMBIQUE	2	2
MYANMAR	3	3
NAMIBIA	1	1
NEPAL	2	2
NETHERLANDS	608	589
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	1	1
NEW ZEALAND	1,424	1394
NICARAGUA	2	2
NIGERIA	25	23
NORWAY	95	92
OMAN	4	4
PAKISTAN	9	8
PANAMA	10	10
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	2	2
PERU	27	27
PHILIPPINES	15	15
POLAND	47	47
PORTUGAL	104	102
PUERTO RICO	2	2
QATAR	37	37
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN	1	1
ROMANIA	18	17
RUSSIA	21	21
RWANDA	2	2
SAUDI ARABIA	36	35
SEYCHELLES	1	1
SIERRA LEONE	2	1
SINGAPORE	167	157
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	15	15
SLOVENIA	7	7
SOLOMON ISLANDS	1	1

SOUTH AFRICA	1,701	1677
SOUTH KOREA REPUBLIC OF KOREA	39	39
SPAIN	1,217	1181
SRI LANKA	6	6
ST LUCIA	2	2
SUDAN	2	2
SWAZILAND	4	3
SWEDEN	232	229
SWITZERLAND	429	417
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	4	4
TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA	17	17
THAILAND	112	106
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	28	26
TUNISIA	2	2
TURKEY	45	43
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	9	9
U.S. OUTLYING MINOR ISLANDS	4	4
UGANDA	4	3
UKRAINE	2	2
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	450	428
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	7	7
UNITED STATES	8,627	8320
URUGUAY	3	3
VANUATU	1	1
VATICAN CITY STATE	2	2
VENEZUELA	4	4
VIETNAM	76	72
VIRGIN ISLANDS (BRITISH)	3	3
VIRGIN ISLANDS (U.S)	3	3
WESTERN SAHARA	1	1
ZAMBIA	7	7
ZIMBABWE	22	21
Total	27,855	27,080

Table 3: Indicative list of applications received and issued since 1 January, 2015 to 31 July, 2018 via Irish Embassies and Consulates*

Country	Received	Issued
ABU DHABI	5,852	5604
ABUJA	1,075	1005
ADDIS ABABA	71	69
ANKARA	460	434
ATHENS	533	510
AUCKLAND	7,134	7037
BANGKOK	1,020	983
BEIJING	1,069	1038
BERLIN	6,043	5956
BERNE	3,038	2994
BOSTON	6,496	6343
BRASILIA	496	468
BRATISLAVA	102	98
BRUSSELS	2,456	2425
BUCHAREST	304	284
BUDAPEST	232	229
BUENOS AIRES	686	668
CAIRO	659	625
CANBERRA	21,112	20722
CHICAGO	5,979	5845
COPENHAGEN	829	806
DAR-ES-SALAAM	171	156
HANOI	506	400
HELSINKI	312	299
HONG KONG	1,706	1638
JAKARTA	220	206
KAMPALA	129	120
KUALA LUMPUR	873	841
LILONGWE	77	74
LISBON	569	552
LJUBLJANA	151	149
LUSAKA	299	285
LUXEMBOURG	950	941
MADRID	5,450	5380
MANILA	15	10
MAPUTO	155	147
MEXICO	749	715
MOSCOW	376	360
NAIROBI	32	26
NEW DELHI	608	586
NEW YORK	22,524	22037

NICOSIA	438	426
OSLO	531	526
OTTAWA	10,846	10573
PARIS	6,844	6733
PRAGUE	409	399
PRETORIA	12,718	12262
RIGA	56	51
RIYADH	1,612	1515
ROME	1,656	1636
SAN FRANCISCO	14,256	14065
SEOUL	279	275
SHANGHAI	475	439
SINGAPORE	1,840	1807
SOFIA	164	145
STOCKHOLM	941	925
SYDNEY	12,054	11879
TALLIN	38	35
TEL AVIV	732	674
THE HAGUE	2,844	2790
TOKYO	542	533
Valetta	378	354
VIENNA	813	794
VILNIUS	123	118
WARSAW	539	515
WASHINGTON	3,715	3596
Total	176,361	172,130

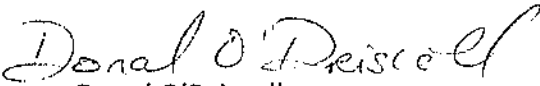
*Note: it is not possible to provide a clear breakdown by country of residence of the applicant, because many Irish Embassies are accredited to and provide passport services for Irish citizens in more than one country.

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 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 script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Donal O'Driscoll

Passport Service