



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála

Oifig na bPasanna, Bosca Poist 9718, Baile Brigín, Co Bhaile Átha Cliath

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Passport Office, P.O. Box 9718, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin

25 November 2016

Our Ref: FOI/REQ/2016/175

Mark Hilliard
The Irish Times
Tara Street
Dublin 2

Dear Mr Hilliard

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

- *The number of passports issued each month from 2012 to present by place of application. The figures should detail how many applications came in each year from 2012 to the most up to date available (today's date if possible)*
- *The number of passports issued each month from 2012 to present by country of birth. The figures should detail how many applications came in each year from 2012 to the most up to date available (today's date if possible)*
- *Any correspondence from 1st January 2016 between officials at the London embassy and the Department regarding the impact of the Brexit vote on the passport process either in the run up to or after the vote.*

I have identified 13 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant six of the records, part-grant six of the records and exempt one record.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under the following Sections of the FOI Act:

Section 29. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned contains matter relating to the deliberative processes of an FOI body (including opinions, advice, recommendations, and the results of consultations, considered by the body, the head of the body, or a member of the body or of the staff of the body for the purpose of those processes), and the granting of the request would, in the opinion of the head, be contrary to the public interest;

Section 30. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to (b) have a significant, adverse effect on the performance by an FOI body of any of its functions relating to management (including industrial relations and management of its staff);

Section 36 (1) Subject to subsection (2), a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned contains-

(b) financial, commercial, scientific or technical or other information whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss or gain to the person to whom the information relates, or could prejudice the competitive position of that person in the conduct of his or her profession or business or otherwise in his or her occupation, or

(c) information whose disclosure could prejudice the conduct or outcome of contractual or other negotiations of the person to whom the information relates.

Section 37.-(1) Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).

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@dfat.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@dfat.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



Catherine Bannon
Passport Service