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Mr Bradley Roberts
request-21441-148d7155@whatdotheyknow.com
By e-mail only

20 January 2010

Our reference: 13087

Your references: http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/overseas_students_2#outgoing-45069
Home Office Request

http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/overseas_students#outgoing-39826
United Kingdom Border Agency Request

Dear Mr Roberts

Freedom of Information request: Internal Review

Thank you for your e-mail of 7 December 2009 where you asked for an Internal Review where you alleged the Home Office failed to respond to your request for;

“The numbers of overseas students who have studied at Grimsby Institute over the past five years and have not returned to their country of origin on expiration of their student visas, and whom there is now no trace”.

I understand you submitted this request to the Home Office on 31 October 2009.

I have investigated this matter and after consulting with my colleagues at the UK Border Agency (UKBA), which is an Agency of the Home Office, I understand you submitted a very similar request to them on 20 October 2009, where you wrote;

“Request, under the Freedom of Information Act, the number of overseas student formerly studying at Grimsby Institute of Further Education under student visas who have not left the UK on the expiration of their visas and for whom there is now no trace”

The nature of your requests were similar. Although there is a slight difference in the wording of your requests, they are both essentially requesting information on the number of overseas students who studied at Grimsby Institute who did not return to their county of origin after the expiration of their student visa and whom are unaccounted for.

Our records show that UKBA responded to your request on 23 October 2009 and I have reviewed the response you received from UKBA. The response you received answers the two requests you sent to the Home Office on 31 October and to UKBA 20 October.

Although you submitted two requests, as they were of a similar nature they were therefore treated as one. The response you received from UKBA answers both requests and the Home Office is under no obligation to resend you the same response to your duplicate request dated 31 October. I have provided a copy of UKBA's response with this letter.

For this reason your request for an internal review is refused. However, I hope that this letter has provided you with a satisfactory explanation regarding how your requests for information were handled.

Yours sincerely

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Information Access Team