

Ganesh Sittampalam
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Web www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

12 February 2010

Ref: 13754

Dear Mr Sittampalam

Thank you for your e-mail of 14th January 2010 requesting information regarding Baroness Scotland. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are considering your request. Although the Act carries a presumption in favour of disclosure, it provides exemptions which may be used to withhold information in specified circumstances. Some of these exemptions, referred to as 'qualified exemptions', are subject to a public interest test. This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour of withholding the information. The Act allows us to exceed the 20 working day response target where we need to consider the public interest test fully.

The information which you have requested is being considered under the exemption in section 36 of the Act, which relates to the prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs. This is a qualified exemption and to consider the public interest test fully we need to extend the 20 working day response period. We now aim to let you have a full response by 11th March 2010.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
UK Border Agency