



Home Office

Identity & Passport Service

Deputy Registrar General
Smedley Hydro
Trafalgar Road
Southport
PR8 2HH

Tel +44 (0)1704 553314
Fax +44 (0)151 471 4566
Web www.ips.gov.uk

Mr S Elibank
Email: request-30280-cd1df184@whatdotheyknow.com

Reference: FOICR 14281/10

Date: 30 April 2010

Dear Mr Elibank

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 6 March 2010 in which you ask for information on those people certified to our organisation as being Secretaries of Synagogues. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose some of the information that you requested, as set out in the enclosed Annex.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference FOICR 14281/10.

Information Access Team
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: info.access@homeoffice.si.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. Should you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

D. Buckley
Deputy Registrar General for England and Wales

Annex

From 1 April 2008, the General Register Office (GRO) became part of the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). You asked for the following information:-

You asked :-

Under the 1949 Marriage Act (as amended), a number of people are certified to your organisation as Secretary of a Synagogue. Please provide me with the following information:

- How many such persons are currently registered?
- How many have been certified in each way, as in, by the President of the Board of Deputies, by twenty householders professing the Jewish religion and being members of the West London Synagogue etc.
- In the case of those certified by twenty householders (this would also apply to the Liberal Jewish Synagogue), who were these twenty?

The General Register Office has been notified of the appointment of 554 Secretaries of Synagogues. These notifications are further categorised as follows:

Board of Deputies: 379
West London Synagogue: 127
Liberal Jewish Synagogue: 48

— (if not exempted) **The names and synagogues of such people.**

Information on the names of individuals, and the synagogue to which they relate, is personal information, the release of which would contravene data protection principles and are therefore withheld under section 40(3)(a)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act.

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