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Mr Faraz Majidulla

HO Reference: VCS/163824

FOI Reference: 23642

E-mail: request-121091-
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20 August 2012

Dear Mr Majidulla

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Thank you for your clarification e-mail of 26 July, in which you confirm you required:

"Information regarding ECAA2 Business Persons."

In your original e-mail of the 4 July you requested the following:

"I would like some information regarding the Ankara Agreement.

- 1. How many applications have been made for entry clearance to enter UK under the Ankara Agreement since 2007? How many of these applications were accepted?**
- 2. How many of these applications were refused? Please give me statistics for each year separately. Out of all the people who have come here under the Ankara Agreement since 2007, how many of them have applied for further leave to remain after one year of stay?**
- 3. How many of these applications were accepted? How many of these applications were refused? How many people since 1963 have been given Indefinite Leave to Remain or British Nationality having once come to the UK under the terms of the Ankara Agreement?"**

With respect to point 1, I am able to disclose the information set out in the enclosed Annex A. This data is based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

Point 2.

We are only able to report on data that is captured in certain mandatory fields on the UK Border Agency's Case Information Database (CID). Additional data relating to the immigration history of applicants, such as their initial leave status and any subsequent applications for further leave, are not recorded in a reportable format. Consequently, in order to provide the requested information, we would need to undertake a manual case by case search of the records.

Point 3.

As with the previous question, we are unable to report on a person's previous leave category prior to their application for citizenship. In order to provide this information, we would need to undertake a manual case by case search of records.

The Home Office publishes immigration statistics annually and quarterly. These include information on citizenship and can be found here:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q1-2012/>

Table cz.07 on citizenship grants by previous country of nationality and type of grant may be of particular use. This can be found in the citizenship Excel tables.

Under section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

We hold the information which you have requested but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request (3 ½ days). The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again.

Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

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 FOI23642. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

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

Stuart Melrose
Visa Customer Services

Annex A

Out of country **Ankara Agreement -Business EC Associate visa figures by Turkish nationals in the period of 2007-2011**

Reporting Period	Applications	Issued	Refused
2007	7	3	-
2008	23	+	14
2009	53	10	20
2010	175	32	136
2011	128	61	72
Grand Total	386	108	242

Please note '+' represents figures one or two and '-' represents nil. This is to protect individual applications that could otherwise be identified and is in accordance with our obligations under the Data Protection Act.

FOI 23642 - Annex A

In Country

Table 1: ECAA 2 applications for an extension of stay or indefinite leave to remain in the UK as a business person under the provisions of the European Community Association Agreement (ECAA) with Turkey, January 2007 to December 2011

Application date	Applications received	Granted	Refused
2007	1,625	1,050	520
2008	1,495	1,130	330
2009	2,535	2,010	490
2010	3,635	2,875	670
2011	3,050	2,405	575
TOTAL	12,335	9,475	2,585

(1) All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

(2) Data relates to main applicants only.

(3) Year relates to the date of application only. Subsequent decisions may not have been made in the same year.

(4) Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.