



# HM Passport Office

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Linda Walker  
[request-722088-fd3137d4@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-722088-fd3137d4@whatdotheyknow.com)

Reference: FOICR 62323/21

8 February 2021

Dear Ms Walker

Thank you for your email of 27 January in which you ask for information on the number of passports with a change of gender.

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

**Please could you supply me with a breakdown of the number of passports issued with a change of gender?**

**Please supply the information by sex (male to female and female to male) and by year of application.**

Under section 12 (1) of the Act, Her Majesty's Passport 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 information you have requested on how many individuals have been issued a passport with a change of gender is not held in a readily available format. To determine whether an applicant has changed their gender on a passport would involve manually searching all our passport records and this would not be possible within the cost limit.

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. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information 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. Due to the nature of your enquiry we are unable to provide you with advice on how you may refine your request to fall within the cost limit.

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 [foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk), quoting reference 62323/21. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

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

Yours sincerely

**C Parsons**  
**Freedom of Information Team**