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## Dear Mr Maxwell

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 August, in which you ask for information on immigration applications and claims. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are considering your request. Although the FOI 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 FOI 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 31(1)(e) of the FOI Act, which relates to the operation of immigration controls. 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 21 October.

Yours sincerely

J Slater Central Operations



We value your feedback, please use the link below to access a brief anonymous survey to help us improve our service to you: http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/108105TAZNG