



Home Office

Digital Data and Technology
Digital Services at the Border
Lunar House
Croydon
CR9 2BY

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Sumsi Timonda

Via email to:

request-622788-3dbd8b89@whatdotheyknow.com

9 April 2020

Dear Sumsi Timonda,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request (Our Reference 58302)

Thank you for your email of 21 March, in which you clarified your request for details of the records that are stored on our Semaphore system. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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 do hold some of 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. This is because it would exceed the cost limit for us to provide a breakdown of the number of records held on Semaphore that are subject to further access controls.

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 redacting, photocopying or postage.

Even if you refine your request, we will still not be able to provide you with a breakdown of the figures that are held on Semaphore and are subject to further controls due to the sheer volume of records that would have to be checked.

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, quoting reference **58302**. 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,

Digital Services at the Border

Email foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk