



Home Office

Digital Data and Technology  
Digital Services at the Border  
Lunar House  
Croydon  
CR9 2BY  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Sumsi Timonda  
Via email to:  
request-622788-3dbd8b89@whatdotheyknow.com

30 April 2020

Dear Sumsi Timonda,

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request (Our Reference 58424)**

Thank you for your e-mail of 10 April 2020, in which you ask for confirmation of the oldest API record held on the Semaphore database as of March 2020 and also for clarification of the responses provided by SARU and DPU over Entry and Exit data.

A full copy of your request can be found in **Annex A**. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Q1) From what date is the oldest API record the Semaphore database as of March 2020?

**I can confirm that the oldest API record held on Semaphore, as of March 2020, is 25 June 2013.**

**Q2) This falls under data protection. Under FOIA section 40(1), this will be handled as a data protection subject access request. It has been passed on to the SAR team who will respond separately to you.**

Yours sincerely,

Digital Services at the Border  
Email: [foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk)

## Annex A

-----Original Message-----

From: Sumsi Timonda <request-622788-3dbd8b89@whatdotheyknow.com>

Sent: 10 April 2020 13:29

To: FOI Requests <FOIRequests@homeoffice.gov.uk>

Subject: 58424 - Re: Freedom of Information request - API Records

Dear Home Office,

This is a follow-up to request 58302. If required, please treat this email as a new FOIR. You have stated that the cost of locating, retrieving and extracting the requested information would exceed the £600 limit. This pertains to the number of records in the Semaphore system subject to further access controls. However, you have not responded to other parts of my request:

- 1) From what date is the oldest API record the Semaphore database as of March 2020?
- 2) Clarification for the responses provided by SARU and DPU team stating "Entry and Exit data is routinely destroyed after 5 years. We can search for records up to 10 years if specifically required but cannot guarantee a positive result" and "Also, the e-Borders system only retains data for up to five years so we cannot provide any data for journeys made more than five years ago."

Yours faithfully,

Sumsi Timonda